THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 2ND APRIL.

WE HAVE received the following account of the Durbar at Moorshedabad from our special correspondent:

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal accompanied by Mr. Peacock, the Secretary in the Political Department, his Aides-de-Camp and Private Secretary, Mr. Secretary Levinge of the Public Works Department and the Duke of Mecklenberg-Schwerin and Mr. Edgar, Commissioner, Presidency Division, arrived at the Azimgunge terminal station at about 1 P.M., and was received there by Prince Wallakadir, second son of the Ex-Nawab Nazim, generally called the Majhila sahib, the Collector and District Superintendent of Police, Moorshedabad, the city sub-divisional officer, Roy Dhanput Sing Bahadoor, Babu Budh Sing Doodhooria, Babu Golab Chand Naolakha and your native Small Cause Court Judge, who is an inhabitant of this district, now here on leave and several others, not to speak of the vast crowds that had gathered on both sides of the river. The station was prettily decorated and a Police guard of honor with muskets saluted His Honor. Azimgunge is on the west bank of the river, a temporary long canopy had been put up all the way from the station to the ferry ghat and another on the east bank of the river. His Honor crossed over in a ferry boat, which had also been prettily decorated and after alighting from the ferry boat, took his seat in a state carriage and moved for the city which is about 5 miles distant from the ferry ghat, escorted by the Nizamut body-guard and followed by his suite. Your correspondent is perhaps involuntarily offending the nostrils of the powers that be, which have become too tenaciously sensitive and punctilious, as regards the use of the word Nizamut in any public documents. For mind you with the resignation or abolition of the Nawab Nazim caused by a feeling of deep mortification at receiving no justice for his family from the British Government, everything in the city has ceased to be called Nizamut, a word derived from Nazim, the title which the Subadar of Bengal had from the Emperors of Delhi. For years there existed and do still exist two educational Institutions, one the Nizamut school intended for the sons of the citizens and the other Nizamut College for the children of the Moorshedabad Nawab family. They are now called by Government the Moorshedabad school and Moorshedabad college.

Now to my theme. The Lieutenant-Governor arrived at the city where the booming of cannons announced to the citizens of his arrival at the Palace and was received at the last step of the grand staircase by the Nawab Bahadoor, a guard of honor of the Nizamut sepoys and a Nizamut band greeted His Honor. I see I am again stupid y guilty of the offence referred to above in rather profuse use of the word Nizamut.

The hour fixed for the Durbar was 6 P.M., after 4 P.M. however the durbaries who were chiefly from this district commenced to drop in, some by carriages and some by boats. The durbar was held in a very large round hall of the Palace, lighted with a monster chandelier which burns, I believe, not less than 150 lights and the like of which, I am told, is not to be seen any where. At the south end of the room was the *dais* which was under an embroidered canopy supported by 4 silver pillars.

Although 6 P. M. was the hour fixed for the Durbar His Honor, however, did not enter the hall till quarter of an hour after. This little delay was due to the confusion which prevailed in making the native *durbaries* take their respective seats.

I enclose in a separate cover the printed programme which will give you an idea of the various parts of the ceremony. The most interesting part of the whole affair was the State procession in which the new Nawab arrived at the Palace a few minutes before 6 P.M. It was a grand spectacle, the like of which has not and is never to be seen in any other part of Bengal, and when it commenced to move from the *kella* or castle within which resides the family of the Nawab Nazim, it vividly recalled to one's mind the old glorious days of the city of Moorshedabad, once the capital of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. I was at first quite charmed with the sight, but presently when I remembered that the once august house of Mir Jaffir has been completely shorn of all the quasi regal titles, dignities and honors it at once appeared to me quite flat and hollow. The present gentlemen though undoubtedly the first peer of the realm has simply the title of Nawab Bahadoor of Moorshedabad. The political scissors has cut off the prefix "Highness" and the title of Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa and the number of guns which saluted over a century the occupant of the Moorshedabad *musnad*. It was rumoured a month ago that instead of the title of Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, the title of President of the Nobles of Bengal Behar and Orissa would be conferred upon the present Nawab Bahadoor on the occasion of his being placed on his ancestral gadi but I heard nothing of the kind. All that I could gather from the *sanad* read and the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, was that he would have precedence over all the titled dignitaries of Bengal.

The procession I have spoken of moved in this order—

(1) A big standard was carried on the back of an elephant, next were two drums on either side of a horse beaten sonorously by its rider, which seemed to tune the band of *Rossanchouki*—players were also on horse back. Next were a number of flags of large sizes carried by men who were followed by a couple of drummers and a body of flutera playing a sort of martial tune; behind them were State camels bedecked with silver ornaments, then walked in silent paces a number of handsome steeds beautifully caparisoned in silver ornaments. Next was an English band and after that over a company and half of Nizamut sepoys with fixed bayonets, slowly marching on the two sides of the Palace road and between their files were the State conveyances which consisted of two silver *jhapanaks* encased with silver and gold colored kincobs, 3 ivory and silver made *nalkees* and silver tanjams and Nimjams, after them followed solid silver crescents and chopdars and 3 embroidered State *paun punkhas* of conical shape and after them the Nawab Bahadoor in a silver tanjam, whose head was protected by half-a-dozen State umbrellas; lastly followed huge-tusked elephants with silver howdas. I heard another portion of the State paraphernalia could not accompany the procession as the elephants trained to carry them had been sent across the Ganges for the Lieutenant-Governor's sikar party. The Nawab Bahadoor wore a magnificent velvet coat worked with gold laces and broiderings. His Highness alighted from his tanjam and was received at the foot of the grand staircase by his brothers and brother-in-law Nawab Feroze Jung Bahadoor. He walked into a side room and remained there till the Lieutenant-Governor entered the durbar hall and took his seat upon the *dais* at the entrance of the hall. He was received by the Political Secretary of the Government who conducted him to the front of the *dais* and presented the Lieutenant-Governor. For further particulars of the ceremony I again refer you to the printed programme.

The first row of the chairs on the right was occupied by the many sons of Nawab Nazim. The first chair being occupied by his second son Prince Wala Kud, the other sons occupied seats according to their seniority of birth. After them was seated the Nawab Nazim's son-in-law, Nawab Zeinoolabdeen Khan, Feroze Jung Bahadoor. The next chair was occupied by the young Maharaja of Nuddea, after whom was seated your illustrious townsman Nawab Abdool Luteef Khan Bahadoor, C.I.E., on whose right I observed your Native Judge of the Small Cause Court. Next to him was seated Kumar Runjit Sing, representative of the house of Devi Sing of Warren Hastings' time. Next to him was seated some youthful dignitary whose name I was unable to ascertain and to his right were seated the representatives of the house of Bongadhikari, who was Imperial Record-keeper of Bengal, Behar and Orissa under the Emperor of Delhi. This family has been reduced almost to nothing; the Duke of Mecklieberg sat in front of the Nawab. I heard some complaints as regards the order in which the seats under inexperienced guidance had been arranged His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor addressed the new Nawab in the following terms—

"Nawab Ali Kader Hussein Ali Mirza,—I have the honour and the pleasure to present you with this Sanad, conferred upon you by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, conveying to you the dignity and honour of Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad. It is impossible for any one to take part in the impressive ceremony of this day in this crowded audience and at this ancient Capital without recalling to mind the historical memories of years gone by. More than 100 years ago your ancestors from this very place at first contested and eventually became associated with the struggles of the British Power for ascendancy in this country. The supremacy of English authority has now become paramount, and is firmly consolidated from the sea to the Himalayas, from Peshawar to Cape Comorin; and the Subadarship of these provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, once vested in your predecessors, and marking the ancient lineage from which you are descended, has passed by the will of Providence and the irrevocable force of circumstance to the hands of a Sovereign whose sway Europeans and natives are now equally willing to recognise with reverence. All this is of the past, and it is needless to dwell upon it—nor would it be right in me on such an occasion to refer at any length to more recent facts which enable me now, in the life time of your father, the late Nawab Nazim of Bengal, to address you as the head and representative of your family. It is sufficient for me, perhaps, to say that if there is regret in what has happened, it is the regret that the intervention of the Government of the country was ever necessary to save the fortunes of your house from ruin, which wild extravagances had made absolutely certain; and yet I rejoice to be able to congratulate you personally that if in a lesser titular distinction than that of your predecessors, still in a high and exalted position, you hold precedence of all the nobles in Bengal and, which is far better that I have the assurance, which the common testimoney of all who know you, assign to you, that the responsibilities of your elevated position are fully realised and acknowledged by you. For my own part I will assert that the highest meed of praise is his who, even though disappointed in the inheritance which the ordinary course of events had promised, strives to do his duty bravely and manfully in the sphere of life which, under Providence, falls to him, and it is to your honor, Nawab Ali Kadr, that it is affirmed that, in the discharge of responsibilities which are still difficult, you bring to bear upon their performance an educated intelligence and a resolute determination to fulfil your obligations loyally and faithfully. I have received from you very recently a statement of the position of your affairs, and nothing could be better as regards either the moderation or temper of its contents than the representation which you have submitted for the consideration of Government. It shows at least that the difficulties of your situation are not of your own creation, but are inherited, and if it lies in my power to help you to overcome these difficulties either in the advancement of your personal interest or the promotion of the claims of your sons in the public service, I need not say that assistance shall be freely given to you. I congratulate you on this public assumption of your new dignity, and I wish you heartily a long life of health and happiness in its enjoyment."

Altogether the Lieutenant-Governor acquitted himself remarkably well I saw couple of guns mounted on the banks of the river in the vicinity of the Palace guarded by a sepoy. They remained, however, perfectly silent during the whole time the ceremony was being gone through. After the Durbar the Nawab Bahadoor proceeded in State to the residence of his grandmother, the mother of the Nawab Nazim and presented her and to three of his mothers the usual Nuzzur. About 8 30 P.M. the state dinner took place, then followed the fire-works and lastly the Ball which His Honor the Lieutenant Governor also joined. The illumination was not as grand as it had been in days gone by—and one ought to feel no surprise that it was so, because in those days the Government made handsome allowances for the installation ceremonies, whereas on this occasion His Highness the Nawab Bahadur had to meet all the expenses from his poor and scanty stipend of Rs. 12,000 a month, which in the time of his predecessors, was about Rs. 70,000 a month including the income of the *Rajmas* or royal domains. But while the general illumination was rather poor that of the stage cemetary of Moorshed Kooly Khan was the best of all, it was constructed with split bamboos frame exactly in the shape of the cemetary lighted with sinak yellow torches beautifully arranged. This is an illumination peculiar to Moorshedabad and is to be seen nowhere, those who have witnessed it in former days compared it to the Alpine scenery. The late Raja Prosunno Narain Deb Bahadur always spoke of it as the best display of Moorshedabad. This illumination was on the west bank of the river, the Palace being on the east bank.

PUBLIC FEELING ON THE INSTALLATION.

The members of the Nizamut family expressed their great satisfaction to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor for the honor done to the family by him, on the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread. I actually heard one Moorsheed Zada, as the sons of the Nawab Nazim are called here, declare *Abhi Guno Mut*, which means that even this is welcome, or better. The educated natives of the District regarded the Installation as a means of publishing to the world the degradation of the house of the Nawab Nazim of Bengal. The common people viewed it as a dull tame affair because there was no schedule. One old respectable Mahomedan gentleman actually shed tears to express his sorrow at the downfall of the house. The citizens did not feel much interest. There was a proposal among them to illuminate their houses but some bold and independent spirits explained the actual situation, and succeeded in dissuading them from making any sort of demonstration, saying that the status and dignities of the house as also its stipend have been reduced almost to nothing. And that it was not an occasion of *shanda* but rather of *Jummi*. Mind you *shandi* does not mean here a marriage as you might perhaps know, but a joyful occurence, *Jummi* means grief or mourning.

I believe, you have in your possession a printed copy of the memorial which the Ex-Nawab Nazim presented in England to the Duke of Argyll, then Secretary of State, in which you will find the notification of the then Governor General in Council announcing to whole India the occasion of Syed Monsoor Ali the first British Ally, to the *musnad* of Moorshedabad under the title of Moontuzool ool mook Mahasina Dowla Ferodu Jan Newab Syed Monsoor Ali Khan Bahadur Nasrad Jung, and commanding the garrison in Fort William to fire a salute of 17 guns. The present Nawab ascended to the musnad of his ancestors with the name given to him by his father with the title of Nawab Bahadoor of Moorshidabad without the prefix "Highness" or a Salute. The contrast is striking.

It was the intention of the Newab Bahadur to invite the Calcutta dignitaries and particularly the Oudh and Mysore family. He could not, however, for various reasons do so. The only notabilities present were Newab Abdoo Lutief Khan Bahadur C. I. E. and Babu Juggadanand Mookerjea, the brothers Nawab Asghar Ali Delwar Jung C.S.I. and Newab Mahamed Ali were invited but they did not come.

TUESDAY, 3RD APRIL.

THE FOLLOWING Committee of Ladies has been formed in Calcutta for the purpose of drawing up a Memorial to Her Majesty the Queen against the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill:—

Mrs. Tottenham—Honorary Secretary.

Mrs.	R. Anderson.	Mrs.	FraserMcDonnell.
,,	Belett.	,,	McNair.
,,	Birch.	,,	E. Morriss.
,,	Branson.	,,	Neil.
,,	Cruickshank.	,,	Nicholson.
Miss	J. P. Furrell.	,,	F. Norriss.
Mrs.	Gordon.	,,	Sandeman.
,,	Grimley.	,,	Sconce.
,,	Hole.	,,	Shekleton.
,,	E. Keith.	,,	Stevens.
,,	Kilby.	,,	Tuson.
,,	D. Lyall	,,	Wagstaff.
		,,	Wilkins.

We give the advertisement free of charge. Ladies, beware! This is a cause not worthy of your tender stuff.

THERE is a rumour in political circles in England to the effect that Mr. Fawcett is about to tender his resignation as Post Master-General. The reason for this step is a difference of opinion between Mr. Fawcett and his colleagues as to the expenses of the Indian Contingent in the Egyptian Expedition being borne by India. It is said that the compromise made by Lord Hartington does not commend itself to the Post Master-General. If this rumour be true, the protest made by Mr. Fawcett is worthy of him.

A CORRESPONDENT requests us to mention that Kumar Sarat Chandra Singh of Paikpara has subscribed Rs. 100 in aid of the Narikeldanga Aided School Building Fund.

WE ARE glad to learn that the section of the Bengal Central Railway between Dum-Dum junction and Duttopukar, a distance of 14½ miles, was opened for general traffic yesterday.

THE PIONEER gives the following account of an outrage at Hyderabad:

It appears that one afternoon, during the Holi festivals, a number of the retainers of the Nawab Bashir-ud-Dowlah came into collision in one of the principal thoroughfares with another party of pleasure-seekers. The Amin, a district police officer, a Parsee of the name of Ardeshir, "in execution of his duty"—to use a comprehensive phrase greatly affected by the English police—arrested the rowdiest of the mob. Unfortunately, for his personal comfort, he caught in his net some of the Nawab Bashir-ud-Dowlah's men. At once there was a cry of "rescue" and a sowar galloped away to the Nawab's palace, with the result that a few minutes afterwards some of the Nawab's cavalry charged the police, and laid about them with their swords with such good-will that in a very few moments half a dozen of the Amin's sepoys had been cut down. The unfortunate Amin was so vigorously thrashed that he was unable to stand, and so he was very considerately carted away to the Nawab's palace. Here his life might have been completely beaten out of him, had not a British officer who had seen something of the affray ridden to the Residency with the news—a fact which appears to have been made known to the Nawab and inclined him to the side of mercy. Consequently he ordered the Amin to be sent to the Peshkar, one of the co-administrators of the State, who has promised to enquire into the matter. We are told

that it is generally believed in Hyderabad that the Nawab ordered his sowars to rescue his attendants who were in custody.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Bombay Gazette* gives another version, which is as follows :

The account of the affray during the Holi holidays at Hyderabad, telegraphed to you by a correspondent, alleges or assumes that the police official was arrested by order of his Highness Busheerud-Dowla. This is altogether an error. During the usual confusion of the Holi, a woman was assaulted it is not easy to ascertain by whom. There was a fight, and the police interfered, and were putting a stop to it, when some sowars belonging to his Highness came by, and seeing that some of their friends were being hustled by the police, they set upon the latter and took amin prisoner, put him in a carriage, and brought him to the Newab's palace. A rumour had reached the palace that an affray of some kinda was on foot, and the Newab had sent a messenger to ascertain the facts. Before he returned, the police official was brought to the palace by the sowars. The Newab instantly ordered him to be set at liberty, and directed an inquiry to be held with a view to the punishment of those in fault. He also sent at once to the Residency to report what had occurred, and to state that he personally knew nothing of the arrest of the police officer until he was brought to the palace, and was at once set at liberty. The peshkar is now investigating the matter. Of course the incidents has caused some stir in Hyderabad, and it is very unfortunate just at this moment. But the prompt measures taken will, no doubt, prevent any similar misconduct in future.

We hope the matter will be thoroughly investigated by the Resident.

IN PURSUANCE of the protest submitted to Government in resolutions passed at a public meeting held at Tanna some months since, the landholders of Salsette have forwarded a memorial to the Viceroy against the forest rules. The memorial urges that if the rules are enforced in their present form "they will completely ruin the proprietors of private forests, inasmuch as the difficulty under these rules regarding the transport of such produce, and the payment of duty as well as fees thereon, will leave no profit to them by the sale of their forest produce." A series of objections to the regulations is embodied in the memorial.

WEDNESDAY, 4TH APRIL.

THE INDIAN WITNESS has the following on the attitude of Native Indians towards Christianity :

The popular notion among Europeans is that every Native of India hates and dreads every phase and semblance of Christianity. There could be no greater mistake. The average Native has a profound respect for religion, as such, and would be glad to see all Europeans manifest a proper regard for their own religion. It is only when the idea is put forward that some kind of art or stratagem is to be used to make the Native Christians that they manifest their hostility. They are themselves exceedingly unwilling to become Christians, but at the same time they would be glad to see all Christians Christianized.

Our contemporary is quite right. The Hindu is too tolerant to think of repressing any rival religionist.

A METEOR is reported from Mysore so brilliant that it lit up the country like the brightest moonlight.

IT IS stated that negotiations are about to begin between the English Foreign Office and the Chinese Minister, who has arrived in London for the purpose, respecting the duty on opium.

IN CONSEQUENCE of a toddy-drawer being killed in the suburbs of Secunderabad by some soldiers who were out shooting, severe restrictions have been put upon the liberty of the soldiers in that station. In the present state of feeling between the European and the Native precautions of this kind ought to be taken in every cantonment.

INTELLIGENCE has been received at Melbourne of the death, at Viti, of the last king of Fiji. He was a cannibal during the greater part of his long life, but embraced Christianity with his subjects, and finally ceded his territory to the British.

THE CHANGES which have for some time been impending in the Baroda administration have at length been made. Sir Madhava Rao has sent in his resignation as Dewan, and Kazi Shahbudin has been confirmed in the appointment which he has held during the late incumbent's absence on leave. The reason of Sir Madhava Rao's recognition is his constant friction with the young Gaekwar. From what we have seen of His Highness he seems to be thoroughly alive to his duties.

WE HAVE received the following from the Press Commissioner's Office :

The Government of India is informed that rumours prevail that the Government intends selling off the reserve of opium and abandoning the policy of maintaining a reserve. These rumours are entirely without foundation. Attention is invited to paragraph 207, clause 4 of the Financial Statement, where the intention of the Government is distinctly stated to be to reduce the number of chests offered for sale in 1884-85 below that fixed by the Notification of the 28th of June 1882, namely 450 a month. It is impossible to state the precise amount of the reduction until the results of the present season are known, but it will certainly not be less than 450 chests a month, that is to say, the amount offered for sale from the 1st of April to the 31st of December 1884 will not be more than 4,000 chests a month. It is possible that the reserve may be drawn upon slightly, but in view of the fact that the reserve will, as stated in paragraph 207, clause 6, of the Financial Statement, stand at only 13,859 chests on the 31st of December 1883, no large diminution of reserve stock would be desirable, neither is any such contemplated.

IN DISCUSSING the Pharmacy Bill the Doctors assembled at the meeting of the Grant Medical College, Bombay, discussed the question raised by Dr. Blanc, that the native doctors of Bombay should follow the example of their European brethren and give up the practice of keeping dispensaries. He thought that Government should prohibit any medical man in its employment from having a dispensary, and he went so far as to suggest that the Bombay University should extend the prohibition to its Fellows. The whole of the discussion turned upon this point, and it was remarkable for the all but unanimous feeling that was expressed against the proposal. But how can doctors be prevented from charging commissions on their prescriptions, which we believed are allowed in all dispensaries in Calcutta? Many of them do it on the sly.

THURSDAY, 5TH APRIL.

REFERRING to the prevailing agitation against the Jurisdiction Bill a European up-country correspondent writes :

We hear of meetings in all parts of India to protest against the proposed amendment of the Criminal Procedure Bill. In all cases we are told that there are crowded meetings but of whom are these meetings composed. In many cases I have noticed that where there are three or four persons of pure European descent, the rest are composed of Eurasians and native Christians. How ridiculous it is on the part of these latter to identify themselves with Europeans and hurl denunciations on the heads of their own countrymen! Is not this vile ingratitude and shameless abandonment of the cause in which they have the greatest interest? In many cases the clamour is raised by men whose ancestors for some generations downwards never owned a European mother. They are natives of India and should feel thankful if they are taken as such. In most cases the meetings that are reported to be composed of Europeans and Anglo-Indian have the half-caste element preponderating.

WE LEARN from a correspondent that a widespread fire occurred at Lalgolah on the 25th instant, which consumed about 700 houses in a couple of hours. We are glad to learn that Babu Jogendranarain Roy has humanely come forward to offer relief to those who have been rendered homeless.

WE ACKNOWLEDGED last week the receipt of the *Bharuti* for Choitra. As usual it is diversified with a variety of useful practical and entertaining subjects. There is a gap in the story entitled, "Puspa Mala or Garland of Flowers." The paper on Asiatic Life should not have been inserted without making it more readable; as it stands it is a vapid rigmarole.

FROM THE STATEMENT of opium revenue furnished by the Press Commissioner it appears that the actual revenue from Bengal opium for the month of March last, was Rs. 1,94,575 better than estimate and for the whole year to the end of March last, Rs. 12,24,530, while the pass duty on opium exported from Bombay was Rs. 9.11, 725 better than estimate in March, the net result for the year ending March was Rs. 11,91,000 worse than estimate.

A CORRESPONDENT says that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has laid the people of Phulbari in the N. B. S. Railway in the Dinagepur district under great obligation by ordering the mail train to stop at the station much against the wishes of the Railway authorities and sanctioning a pucca kutchery house for the Moonsif's Court.

FRIDAY, 6TH APRIL.

FROM THE correspondence contained in the Supplement to the last *Calcutta Gazette* we learn that Mr. H. Dear has offered to bear the whole cost of the new dispensary building now in course of construction at Monghyr estimated at Rs. 20,000. When the proposal to establish a new dispensary at Monghyr was first mooted Mr. Dear made a munificent donation of Rs. 10,000, and he has now offered to bear the entire cost. His liberality cannot be too highly commended.

WE HAVE received the following telegram from the Press Commissioner's office :

Colonel Bannerman took charge of the Central India agency from Sir Lepel Griffin on the first instant.

WE ARE indebted to the Secretary to the Executive Committee of the Calcutta International Exhibition for a copy of the proceedings of a meeting of the Committee held on the 15th ultimo. The business transacted at this meeting was the inspection of the temporary buildings and India Courts of the Exhibition, reading of the report of proceedings since the meeting on the 22nd January last, consideration of the question of steam power raised by Colonel Trevor, that is to say whether the Colonel should arrange for steam power and shafting for the machinery shed or leave it to Mr. Joubert to arrange; consideration of the question as to how valuable exhibits are to be secured and guarded, on this head it was decided that the custody of exhibits will be undertaken by Government; extension of buildings, consideration of the question whether Calcutta or other Indian firms should have space allotted to them in the reserved buildings free of charge—decided in the negative; opening of the exhibition at night and amusements.

WE HAVE received an account of the disturbances created by soldiers stationed at Barrackpore, which have made habitation in the neighbourhood of the cantonment difficult. The disturbance consists in chasing zenana women and laying violent hands on them, forcibly taking away date and palm juice from the trees or from the houses of the vendors, robbing orchard and fruit gardens, making forcible entry into people's houses, and sundry other outrages. The inhabitants have brought these facts to the notice of the commanding officer at Barrackpore. We hope His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will interfere.

WE INVITE the attention of the Post-Master General of Bengal to an application of the inhabitants of Durbashini in the Hooghly district for a Post Office in their village. When the inhabitants are willing to bear the cost of the experiment for six months, we do not see any reason why sanction should be withheld.

WE HAVE received a copy of a petition which some of the Vaishnavas of Muthra have addressed the Secretary of State and the First Lord of the Treasury against an order recently passed by the local authorities of Muthra and sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor of the N. W. Provinces and Oudh permitting the water procession or *juljatra* procession of the Sarogis of Muthra. It would appear that this procession had never been allowed to be made in pomp attended with music and the necessary religious paraphernalia by the executive authorities, and the Lieutenant-Governor on the ground of its being hurtful to the feelings of the Vaishnavas, who form the bulk of the Muthra population and its being calculated to lead to breach of the peace, has disallowed it.

THE NUMBER of persons, who visited the Indian Museum in March last, was 24,950, of whom 24,299 were natives and the rest Europeans and others.

SATURDAY, 7TH APRIL.

WE HAVE before us the 4th number of the *Sakha* or the "Friend," a new Bengali monthly. This Maga is conducted altogether on a new plan and in a style likely to be acceptable to the general reader. It is an illustrated paper written in easy colloquial Bengali and the subjects treated of are both interesting and instructive.

THERE WERE 251 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 31st March, of which 61 were from cholera, 2 from small-pox, 70 from fevers, 26 from bowel-complaints, 14 from phthisis and asthma, 10 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. The number of infant deaths was 56 of which 8 were still-born. Among non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 16. The average of daily mortality was 35·8. We are sorry to notice that mortality from cholera is again rising.

THE BOMBAY POLICE is always nagging at the Salvationists. Another prosecution was instituted against them on a charge of illegal assembly, but as they were not five in number, the Magistrate has let them off. Are they not entitled to damages for false prosecution? Why does not the local Government stop the intolerant and insensate proceedings of the police?

IT WOULD seem that Oudh would be allowed no rest on the land question. A Rent Commission has been appointed to report on the question of Rents. It is stated that the enquiry will be chiefly limited to ascertaining whether improvements in the present processes of ejectment and enhancement cannot be made in the tenant's favour.

THE PROTECTOR of Immigrants in Mauritius has made a *color de rose* report on the state of the coolies in that colony. The *Pioneer* draws attention to two important facts in connection with this. There was an abnormal increase of suicide among coolies. Then the Protector does not say whether any complaints have been made against the planters by their coolie labourers, nor does he say whether any planters have been convicted before stipendiaries of any harshness, cruelty, or fraud. We hope these queries will be answered.

MR. TELANG, who came over to Calcutta as a member of the Education Commission, has been lecturing Bombay on the Bengalis. The *Indian Spectator*, which notices the lecture, says :

We agree with Mr. Telang in thinking that the Bengalis is "sharp and versatile" but not so "solid" as the Maratha—we said as much a few months ago. The intellectual energy of Bengal is something prodigious, though for

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want of what Mr. Telang calls 'a tradition of independence,' the intensity or earnestness of the Maratha, the Punjaubi or even the Madrasi is not generally visible. The Bengalies are a more literary people than the Bombayites, for the simple reason that except the Zemindars the peoples can have recourse to nothing but one of the learned professions. Then as to political activity, the Bengalis are decidedly our superiors. The British Indian Association, Mr. Telang might have explained, shows so much actual work, because it is composed of men who are not only very rich, but who have very large interests at stake. A great measure of the B. I. Association's success may be safely credited to the Secretary, the Hon'ble Mr. Kristodas Pal. We are glad Mr. Telang is able to call Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose 'the first orator in the country.' Calcutta has certainly more public speakers than all other Indian cities put together. The adoption of English dress by most of the England-returned Bengalis is evidently not to Mr. Telang's taste; this tendency ought to be discouraged. It is to be regretted that such a competent witness as Mr. Telang thinks the Bengalis addicted more or less to perjury. Our own opinion, after careful study, is this: that the Bengalis as a nation are no more prone to this vice than any other nation, Indian or European.

Mr. Telang has since corrected this statement. He says that he meant the lower class of Bengalis. But what opportunities had he to study their character?

THE ENGLISHMAN passes the following judgment on Mr. Ilbert's Bill:

The Bill was born of deception; it has been nurtured in deception, and it is now being defended by unblushing misrepresentation of facts.

Bravo!

DR. U. K. DUTT, who was tried at the criminal sessions of the Calcutta High Court, on certain charges connected with the death of an infant son of Mr. C. C. Dutt, was convicted this day of negligence and sentenced by Mr. Justice Norris to pay a fine of Rs. 500.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals: 1. Statistical Tables for British India, seventh issue. 2. A Memoir of Sir Salar Jung, G.C.S.I. By Syud Hossain Bilgrami, B.A., Private Secretary. 3. A Book of Bombay. By James Douglas. 4. Rangoon Port Trust correspondence, January 1883. 5. Certificates and statement of experience of Mr. Graham Smith M.I.C.E. 6. Trade and Navigation accounts of British India, for February 1883, and eleven months, 1st April 1882 to 28th February 1883. 7. The Russian Railway to Herat and India. By Charles Marvin with introduction by Armineus Vambery. 8. Ballads on a despised subject, The European Britisher one. 9. The Influence on English Trade and American Protection by the development of India, 10. Army Circulars, for January, February and March 1883. 11. Memorial of the Suburban Rate-payers' Association of 27th March 1883 regarding the Municipal Bill. 12. Twelfth Annual Report of the National Indian Association for 1882 13. Report of Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Calcutta International Exhibition, of the 15th March 1883. 14. Nivrita Chinta or Private Meditations in Bengali. By Kaliprosunno Ghose, Dacca. 15. Prani Vyavahara or a Treatise on the proper treatment of domestic animals of Bengal. By Nakur Chunder Biswas. 16. Mahabharatha in Sanskrit and Bengali. Adipurva, Part 8. Published and distributed *gratis*. By Protap Chunder Roy. 17. Ramayana in Sanskrit and Bengali, Part 17, published as above. 18. Probahini, No. 2. 19. Sakha—an illustrated Bengali monthly, Vol. I. No. 4. 20. Indian Telegraph Guide, parts I. and II. April 1883. 21. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for January 1883.

THE MEMORIAL of the Rate-payers' Association of the Suburbs regarding the Municipal Bill is a well-reasoned and well-written document. The rate-payers of other mofussil towns ought to follow this example and express their opinion on the Bill.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, April 3.—The Queen is able to drive out, but is quite incapable of walking and scarcely able to stand. The Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying to a question in the House of Commons last night, said that no representations have been made to the Russian Government regarding the explorations of the Russian Engineer, Lessars, in Afghan Turkistan. The House of Commons have read for the second time the Criminal Appeal Bill.

4.—Mr. Cross, replying to a question in the House of Commons, on Monday, said the Amir of Afghanistan had expressed a desire to have an interview with the Viceroy of India, and a reply had been sent that he would be received next autumn. Replying to a question on the same subject, last evening, Mr. Cross said that the objects of the visit were known to the Government, but that it was inexpedient to state them. Mr. Childers, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to a deputation, yesterday, declined at the present time to remit the silver duty. Sir Joseph Pease introduced a motion in the House of Commons to allow the Chinese Government liberty of action with respect to the opium duty. The Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in replying, said the Chefoo convention had not been ratified because no final settlement had been arrived at. A favorable issue of the negotiations for the abolition of transit dues is expected. He opposed the motion on the grounds that it would prejudice pending negotiations. The motion was eventually negatived by 122 votes against 66. The House of Commons, last night, agreed without a division against the conclusion of a treaty with Portugal unless guarantees were given of commercial freedom and the development of civilization. Mr. Gladstone, assenting to the motion, promised to submit the treaty to the House before ratifying it.

5.—Mr. Childers presented his Budget to the House of Commons this evening. The revenue for the past financial year amounted to £89,000,000 and the expenditure to £88,875,000. The revenue for the ensuing financial year is estimated at £88,500,000 and the expenditure at £85,812,500. Mr. Childers proposes only to charge the duty on silver actually sold, and will ultimately repeal the duty. £170,000 will be devoted to reducing telegrams to six pence at the beginning of October. The duty on railway fares of one penny a mile will be abolished, and a reduction to two per cent. is proposed in the duty on railway fares above the one penny. The standard of moisture of tobacco will be raised, and a reduction of three half pence on the income tax will be made, leaving a balance of £240,000. The redemption of the national debt next year will amount to £8,000,000 and in twenty years to £172,000,000.

Cairo, April 4.—Earl Dufferin, replying to numerous influential petitions for the permanent occupation of Egypt by the British troops, said that he could hold out no hope of a permanent occupation, but his Lordship intimated that the troops will not be withdrawn under the present existing circumstances.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—General Thomaroff has been appointed Governor of the Trans-Caspian territory, replacing Lieutenant-General Rohrberg.

5.—A mine has been discovered at Moscow.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

(SESSION 1883.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Tuesday, the 10th instant, at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Fundamental Phenomena of Magnetism.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, F.C.S., F.I.C., on Wednesday, the 11th instant at 5 P. M.

Lecture by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, F.C.S., F.I.C., on Saturday, the 14th instant at 3 P. M.

Subject: Ammonia and Chlorine.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1883.

THE RENT BILL DEBATE

IV.

MR. REYNOLDS' SPEECH.

MR. REYNOLDS has taken an active part in the Rent Bill discussion. The reader would recollect that he was charged with the revision of the Bill of the Rent Commission. He visited some of the principal districts of Bengal and Behar and made some material alterations in the Bill committed to his care. The Bengal Government did not approve of all these alterations, and modified many of them. It was generally believed that he would be charged with the introduction of the Bill, but the Government has decided otherwise. Mr. Reynolds is, however, not the less loyal to Government. He has given his hearty adhesion to the Bill. He says: "The Bill before the Council is the result of long deliberation and patient enquiry; it is an honest attempt to hold the balance impartially between interests which, though they are really identical, are apt to come into apparent conflict at various points of contact, and the authors of it have resisted the temptation to legislate upon new lines, or to put forward new theories of the rights of the different classes of the agricultural population. I cannot agree with the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal in the estimate which he has passed of the Bill. I have studied the rent question in Bengal for nearly as many years as he has. I have studied it not merely in books, but by practical experience of its working, and I have striven to make myself acquainted with its real facts and bearings. And I say with confidence that the feature which I most admire in the Bill is the eminently conservative and constitutional character of its main principles. In some points of detail, I venture to think that this character has not been maintained, and I shall not shrink from noticing these points in their proper place. But, taking the Bill as a whole, it is essentially a measure framed in accordance with the ancient prescriptive law of the country: and, as such, it ought to be acceptable to those who think that the most useful, and certainly the safest, province of legislation is to formulate and crystallize those principles which have been tested by long experience, and accepted by general consent. I think it useless to speculate upon the question whether in ancient times, the right of property in the soil was vested in the sovereign, in the zemindar, or in the ryot." Mr. Reynolds is of course welcome to his own conclusions, but a careful examination of the old Regulations, as we endeavoured to show last week, does not bear out those conclusions. Mr. Reynolds lays much stress upon the fact that "a resident ryot could not be ousted so long as he paid the customary rent," but the question is—who is the "resident ryot?" As the Missionaries in their memorial regarding the Rent Bill of 1859 said—"the resident ryot" was the *poitrik* or hereditary ryot, and surely it would be against the spirit of the Permanent Settlement to eject an hereditary resident ryot. What we object to is the conferral of the occupancy right on a mere squatter. Under the Permanent Settlement Regulations the resident ryot was entitled to hold lands in the same village, but not in the same estate. Mr. Reynolds himself admits this. He says: "The Bill definies the settled ryot as the tenant who has held ryottee land for 12 years in any village or estate: and it declares that such settled ryot shall have a right of occupancy in any ryottee land held by him in that village or estate. It may be objected that the proposed definition is at once too wide and too narrow: too wide, because the cultivation of land in the same *estate* was never held to cofer the position of a khudkhast ryot: and too narrow, because a much shorter term than 12 years might reasonably be taken as evidence of settled occupation. The definition may in some measure be looked upon as a compromise: and the coerespondence shows that it is not the definition originally proposed by the Government of India. But what we have to consider is the practical effect which this or any other definition will produce. Assuming the proposition (which indeed cannot be controverted) that the resident ryot has a right of occupancy in the village lands, what is the definition which will secure this right to the greatest number of those who ought to possess it, and extend it to the smallest number of those who are not entitled to enjoy it?" So the inclusion of *estate* in the definition is admitted by Mr. Reynolds to be a too broad definition. When Mr. Reynolds was in charge of the Bill he wanted for good and valid reasons to change the twenty years' presumption clause of Act X of 1859. He thus notices this subject: "In Chapter III, section 15 reproduces the present law regarding the presumption arising from twenty years holding at an unchanged rent. This presumption was first introduced by the Act of 1859, and I have always thought that it bore somewhat hardly on the landlord, and especially on two classes of landlords who seem entitled to favourable consideration, landlords who have dealt leniently with their tenants in past years, and landlords who have purchased the estates at sales for arrears of revenue. I was at one time disposed to recommend that the presumption should be removed altogether; but I have since seen reason to modify this view, and I am now content that the section should stand, as it will always be in the power of the landlord to apply under Chapter XII of the Bill for the preparation of a record of rights on his estate." We cannot congratulate Mr. Reynolds on this change of opinion. We have seen nothing, which invalidates the force of his own reasoning on the subject. The Bill recognizes the right of the landlord to confer occupancy right for a consideration. But Mr. Reynolds would not do so. He says: "Section 48 provides that the occupancy-right may be acquired by grant from a proprietor or permanent tenure-holder. I think I can understand the reasoning which may have led the framers of the Bill to insert this provision, but the section is nevertheless of a revolutionary and dangerous character, and any extension of the occupancy right which may result from it would be too dearly purchased. It is practically an admission of the vicious principle that the occupancy right may be made a matter of bargain or contract between landlord and tenant. The occupancy right cannot be granted by the landlord, for it is not his to grant: it is essentially inherent in the status of the resident cultivator." In this provision

there is recognised some vestige of proprietory right, but Mr. Reynolds sees nothing but wrong in it. Does not the proprietor now confer permanent or mokururi right for a consideration, and is not the lower right to create occupancy right a legitimate corrollary of the higher right?

With regard to the right of pre-emption Mr. Reynolds says: "The sections regarding the right of pre-emption must be taken in connection with those relating to merger, and the Bill seems to me somewhat defective in that it fails to explain clearly the nature of the landlord's title in a holding which he may have purchased. The Draft Bill of the Bengal Government contained an express provision that the doctrine of merger should not operate to convert a holding when purchased by the landlord into khamar land. The present Bill provides that if the landlord lets the land, he must let it as an occupancy holding; but the statement of Objects and Reasons explains that if he pleases he may keep the land in his own hands, and cultivate it by his servants or labourers. This is a serious departure from the rule of the old Regulations. By Reg. VIII of 1793 the zemindar was not only permitted but required to let the lands of his estate; he had no power to hold them himself. If indeed a zemindar may hold ryottee land in this way as long as he pleases, it is practically equivalent to the conversion of the land into khamar. Section 56 of the Bill will undoubtedly be evaded: and the whole question of the exact nature of the landlord's rights in a purchased holding ought to be carefully considered by the Select Committee." So the landlord is not to be allowed even the rights of a purchaser. A stranger when he purchases an occupancy holding may do with it just as he likes, but if he happens to be a zemindar, he shall not have the same right. Because he has the misfortune of being owner of the land, he must purchase it over again when his tenant wishes to sell it, but if he will purchase it back he shall not exercise the rights of an ordinary purchaser. This is even-handed justice!

The zemindars have made a most important concession by agreeing that when once an enhancement of rent is made, it shall have a currency for ten years. But Mr. Reynolds does not seem to be satisfied with it. He wishes to act upon the proverb—take an ell if an inch be given. He says: "I am also inclined to think that the period of ten years provided by section 78 is too short. The Famine Commission suggested 30 years. This is possibly too long; but if it takes 12 years for a ryot to become settled, 12 years is surely not too long for him to remain free from claims for enhancement, and the Select Committee might consider this point." Mr. Reynolds then goes on: "The provisions regarding a table of rates appear reasonable and fair: but I doubt whether any extensive use will be made of them. Careful enquiries on this subject have lately been made by the Government of Bengal in a number of selected areas, and the general results tend to the conclusion that tables of rates based upon classifications of soil cannot ordinarily be prepared in the Lower Provinces." Does not this admission imply that the pergunnah rate is a myth? And yet Mr. Reynolds says: "I should be glad to see the provisions of section 79 extended, so as to correspond with those of section 74. If a ryot is paying more than the established rate, this ought to be a legitimate ground for an application for reduction." What is after all the established rate, when it cannot be proved?

Mr. Reynolds, however, strongly objects to chapter VIII of the Bill. He says:

"The above remarks refer mostly to matters of detail: but my objections to Chapter VIII are of a different character. I must own that this is the part of the Bill which I least like or approve. Short as it is, it probably contains more innovations than the rest of the Bill put together. I object strongly to the title of the Chapter. The ordinary ryot in Bengal is the occupancy ryot: and it is a dangerous novelty to countenance language which implies that the status of the non-occupancy ryot is the rule, and that occupancy ryots form an exceptional and privileged class. The clause relating to compensation for improvements is an innovation, but a comparatively harmless one, as a non-occupancy ryot would never make improvements unless he were protected by a lease. But the proposed compensation for disturbance introduces an entirely new element into the agricultural laws of the country. We have not the least experience to show how this provision would work in India, and the principle of it seems to me to be objectionable. Either the landlord has the right to eject the tenant or he has not. If he has the right, he should not be required to pay compensation for exercising it; if he has not the right, no money payment ought to be sufficient to give it him. Section 91 refers to the limit fixed by section 119, which provides that the rent of an ordinary ryot or under-ryot shall not exceed five-sixteenths of the value of the gross produce of the land. I question the wisdom of attempting to fix by law the limit of an under-ryot's rent. Such a law is certain to be disregarded, for it is not the interest of either party that it should be observed. But the provision which puts the non-occupancy ryot on the same level as the under-ryot, and on a different level from the occupancy ryot, as regards the rent which he may be called upon to pay, is open to far more serious objection. It is an unconstitutional proposal: for it implies that the occupancy ryot is entitled to hold at a privileged rate of rent: and this is not, and never has been, the law of Bengal."

We subscribe to every word that has fallen from Mr. Reynolds on this subject. Chapter VIII of the Bill is a most mischievous innovation. It is borrowed from English ideas, and has no existence in the condition of things in this country.

With regard to monthly instalments Mr. Reynolds remarks: "For chapter IX, the provisions of section 98 regarding the instalments of a ryot's rent, seem to me to be sound in principle, but to require some verbal modification. As the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal told us in his speech, monthly instalments of rent are in accordance with the custom of the country, and should not be interfered with; but interest should not be chargeable, nor should a suit lie for arrears, unless default continues for three months. This is the practice of the government in regard to its own revenue. In all the dowls of the permanent settlement which I have seen, the revenue is made payable in monthly kists: but no measure for enforcing payment can be taken except at the quarterly days of payment." Mr. Reynolds is quite right. But the payment of interest is now the custom of the country. If this custom be ignored, then monthly instalments will be practically abolished.

THE JURISDICTION BILL.

THE INDIAN ORACLES in England are speaking out on the Criminal Jurisdiction Bill. Four eminent Indian judicial officers have written to the Press on the subject. Sir Louis Jackson and Sir George Campbell have written to the *Times*. Sir Louis Jackson, the guide and friend of the Native Judiciary, has changed his coat entirely. He says: "I am convinced that it is right and necessary to leave criminal jurisdiction over European British subjects as a general rule in the hands of judges and magistrates who are themselves European British subjects; and that the instances in which it would be safe to depart from that rule are for the present so rare that it is not worth while to legislate for them." He thus developes this argument: "Long observation has shown me that in general native judges in India preceed, in the formation of their judgments, a good deal less on the actual tangible evidence before them than upon their estimate of the probabilities of the case. This being so, it needs no argument to show how indispensable it is that the judge or magistrate who is to try an Englishman on what is possibly a false accusation should be thoroughly able to judge of the motives, habits, and rule of conduct which would govern that Englishman, and this is a thing which can be said of very few Indians. In saying so, I do not at all forget or impugn the remark frequently made that natives are shrewed judges of character. So they often are in respect of persons under their constant observation, but this faculty would not help them in coming to a conclusion as to the conduct of a foreigner whom they see for the first time when brought before them on a criminal charge." And yet Native Judges have been trying the civil suits of European British subjects for nearly half a century, and no complaint has been made against them. On the contrary the European not unfrequently prefers the Native to the European Judge for the trial of his suit. Did not the European planters of Mozufferpore beg of Babu Grishchunder Ghose to stay for some time there and dispose of certain heavy suits of theirs when he was appointed a Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court? Cases of this kind are of frequent occurrence. In the same way Native Magistrates in the Presidency towns try European British subjects without demur. Why is then objection taken to a comparative innocent proposal to invest a few Native Civilians with a limited jurisdiction over European British subjects? Sir Louis Jackson admits this, but says that the proposed measure is only the thin end of the wedge. He remarks, "this contention, though not apparently going far enough, for the Government of India, is, no doubt, plausible, but it will hardly bear examination. The Indian gentleman who comes to this country, adult or advanced in adolescence, and passes two or three years in preparing for the Service, acquires little more than a sort of veneer and is certainly not transformed into an Englishman.

> "Coelum, non animum, mutant, quitrans mare current."

But it seems to me equally desirable on political grounds, and fully defensible, that the English resident should retain his exceptional position. It has been stipulated for in Turkey, in Egypt, in China, and in Japan—why should it not exist in India? Probably, if the privilege were abolished, no one would be more surprised than the Indian population generally; and I venture to predict that if any large extension of the jurisdiction over Englishmen takes place, the immunity of the official class from criminal prosecutions will not last long." How soothing must be this compliment to Indian gentlemen, who complete their education in England! But what does Sir Louis Jackson's argument amount to? There seems to be a dread somewhere that justice is likely to be strongly administered by the Indian Magistrate, and that the European British subject should therefore be on his guard. Is this an argument worth listening to?

Sir George Campbell is no enthusiastic supporter of Mr. Ilbert's Bill, still he gives no uncertain sound. In his letter to the *Times*, he writes: "Our readiness to be guided by a man of Mr. Justice Stephen's great ability and eminence on these latter subjects is somewhat abated by the consideration that he belongs to a different school, and not very long ago came forward as a sort of thick-and-thin apologist for Lord Lytton. But on judicial subjects he must carry immense weight. And as I also took a large part in the settlement of the Criminal Procedure Code of 1872, I venture to submit a view which seems to me to make it desirable to wait for the explanatory correspondence." As we have already said Sir George is by no means enthusiastic on the subject, but he counsels moderation. He observes: "For many years, as Judges of the High Court, natives have had unlimited criminal jurisdiction over natives and Europeans alike. Every day Native Magistrates try Europeans in the Presidency towns. The only question is whether perhaps half-a-dozen native civil servants in the interior may have a power which they will most rarely be called on to exercise." So the question lies in a nutshell. The storm raised is quite gratuitous. The liberty of the European British subject in India is not at stake—the British empire in the East is not in jeopardy.

We give Sir Lawrence Peel's letter to *Allen's Indian Mail in extenso*:

It has been said that our presence and sway in India have been obtained by the sword, and that our presence there is "anomalous." This word "anomalous" is a quotation, and it is not clear to me in what sense so vague a phrase was originally used. Again, Her Majesty's rule in India has been called "a despotism." This is a loose and an incorrect description of it. A despotism means a Government wherein the will of the despot is supreme. Her Majesty is a constitutional monarch, and has strictly, throughout her reign, been guided by her high sense of duty to conform to that law. She is under the law, and her will alone can creat

no new law. What she has not herself she cannot delegate as power, and her Viceroy in India cannot rise above his course. The English Legislature is supreme over India, and the Indian Administration in every branch is controllable by it. If we suppose a most improbable act, that a Viceroy should act tyrannically, and an English Minister in England support him in that abuse of authority, a vote of want of confidence would shatter and change a Ministry, and work a change in the person and acts of a Viceroy. The highest power in India is no despotism, either open or disguised, and what has been acquired by force, in rare instances by wrong, is used for the general good, under the direction really of popular, it may be even said, democratical spirit, formed and led in a land of liberty. It is idle to attempt to go back to distant origins. We can find no certain trace in India of one original people; we read of inroads there, acquistions, and supremacy made and maintained, and we conceive of them all in turn as of the same character as our own. As regards the cause of sway, it is the duty of our Government, as it is its practice, to use its power for the general good, to improve above all things the administration of justice, there still most defective—I fear even more so than at home—and when the tribunals are as perfect as they can be made, then it may be wise, and becoming quieter rulers to meet a growing desire for uniformity, which is, after all, often delusive, and a worker of great inequality of condition.

Sir Lawrence Peel, as might be expected, is right in his first principles. He is too just and righteous a man to allow popular clamour to bias his judgment. Unfortunately he knows India as it was thirty years ago. He has not seen India of to-day, and cannot therefore pronounce any opinion confidently on the changes, which have taken place within the last three decades. He consequently writes with some hesitation—some uncertainty. But if Sir Lawrence Peel will enquire into the present state of the country and the progress made by the natives, we feel confident that he will not hesitate to give his warm support to the sound, just, and righteous measure, which Lord Ripon's Government has initiated. The only defect of that measure is that it does not go far enough. For the sake of the sacred principle involved we are quite willing to accept for the present this small measure, if the Government does not deem it expedient to go further.

Mr. Markby, ex-Judge of the Bengal High Court, has also written to the *Times* on the subject. He points out that the proposals contained in Mr. Ilbert's Bill "will no doubt if carried, remove certain anomalies, but they will leave many anomalies—and some persons seem to have a sort of affection for anomalies—unremoved. For examble, they will leave the anomaly that a European cannot be sentenced by a European District Judge to more than a year's imprisonment, while by a Native High Court Judge he may be sentenced to death." Mr. Markby then goes on:

In order to prevent people making up their minds at once that Lord Ripon and his Council have no higher object in view than a pedantic desire for the removal of anomalies, I would suggest that it is at least possible to take a different view from that which has been as yet put forward in this country. It is thought by some persons—by most, I believe, of those who have had official experience in India—that the successful administration of the law depends to a considerable extent upon the cordial co-operation of the Natives of the country with European Officers. This cordial co-operation is, however, greatly impeded when distinctions of race are carried into a Court of justice. Whenever, therefore, it is safe to do so, the Government ought to remove these distinctions. Upon this principle, the Government of India has hitherto proceeded; not, I regret to say, without the strong opposition of non-official Europeans resident in India.

Has that opposition been justified by the result? Surely not. Native Judges have long had full power over the property, the personal safety, the health, and the reputation of European British subjects, so far as these are under the protection of the Civil Courts. In the Presidency towns Native Judges have exercised some criminal jurisdiction. Hundreds of cases occur every year in which Europeans are concerned, and which are tried by Native Judges, and yet I never knew a single case in which a charge of unfairness was brought home to a Native Judge by a European, I cannot even recollect such a charge having been made. Curiously enough, such charges—always, I believe, unfounded—are not unfrequently made against European Magistrates.

If any one will turn to that part of Lord Macaulay's life which relates to his residence in India, I do not think he will take the opposition of non-official Europeans as conclusive against a measure of this kind.

This is the opinion of a man with long judicial experience in this country, and the judicial cast of whose mind gives him a peculiar claim to be heard on the subject. He is not one likely to be carried away by wave of feeling.

The letter of Sir Arthur Hobhouse is by far the most dispassionate and statesman-like document we have across on the subject. As a calm statement of facts and a piece of sober reasoning it stands unrivalled. He thus interprets the scope of the Bill: "It amounts to this—that certain Government officials of long standing and of distinguished capacity shall not, because they are of pure Indian blood, be precluded from exercising over Europeans the very carefully guarded amount of jurisdiction which is vested in other provincial magistrates. It must be borne in mind that the term "European British subjects" is not confined to Britons properly so-called. In this connection it means all the Queen's subjects born, naturalized, or domiciled in the United Kingdom or in the colonies of Europe, America, Australia, New zealand, or South Africa, and their legitimate children or grand children includes therefore numbers of persons who both by blood and associations have more connection with Asia than with Europe." So much for the birth-right of the Briton. After giving the history of the question Sir Arthur Hobhouse remarks:

Such being the true state of the case what is the language that we hear used about it. We are told that Volunteers talk of refusing to serve a Government "which seems bent on degrading them." It is hinted that nobody supports the measure except those who are dependent on the Viceroy for promotion. One meeting denounces it as a "sacrifice to ideal legislation of a highly prized right." Another says that the "ancient privilege of Britons is being sacrificed merely for a political sentiment." It is loudly asserted that it will vitally injure European interests, stop progress, and frighten European capital out of India. In England one journal speaks of it as a proposal to give to natives an "unlimited criminal jurisdiction over Europeans." Another speaks of it as the work of "abstract theorists," which the "practical statesman" will at once reject; and says that it is introduced "simply because it occurred to somebody that it is an anomaly to have a native among the Calcutta magistrates and not to have a native in a similar position in the provinces." I do not wish to say what may be irritating to any one's feeling; but to all who will dispassionately consider the matter there will appear the most ludicrous disproportion between the trivial causes assigned for the measure by its enemies and its true causes, and between the frightful effects ascribed to it and any possible consequences which are conceivable on rational grounds. The present step is a small and cautious one, as former steps have been, and as becomes prudent Rulers who have not and cannot have either the support or the warning afforded by representative bodies. But it is in persuance of a policy long and well considered, which rests on grave and deep principles, and is supported by the men who are most responsible for the government of the country.

Sir Arthur Hobhouse then refers to the Mears case of Jessore, and the agitation raised about it was really scandalous. Sir Arthur remarks: "The sentence being right was upheld by the High Court, and not remitted by the Government. None of the foreboded evils has taken place, and very body is the better for its being known that there is now a real restraint upon Englishmen whose tempers incline them to violence." Sir Arthur Hobhouse thus concludes:

Reading, then, the present excitement by the light of former ones, I cannot see in it anything which should induce the Government to depart from its well-considered policy. It is the anger of a privileged class at the loss of one of its privileges, which is inconvenient to the State and not beneficial to itself. Such anger is common enough, and should be treated patiently, and met by a temperate exposition of the truth. But it ought not to prevail, for it has no reasonable basis. I can conceive that native judges may fail in trying Europeans on account of their timidity, though I hope it will prove otherwise. I cannot conceive that Europeans will be placed at any disadvantage on account of the partiality of a native judge, or that a native judge will be more prone to receive or less quick to detect false accusations than an English or half-caste one. With regard to civil causes, there is no suggestion of any such defect in native judges, the Black Act and subsequent arrangements of the same kind notwithstanding. Why a different result should be feared from the present very cautious proposals for conferring criminal jurisdiction on native Indians I for one am unable to see.

We entirely concur. The Government would shew a lamentable weakness, if it should give way to insensate clamour.

TIT FOR TAT.

WE have read Mr. Lalmohun Ghose's speech at Dacca on the late Town Hall meeting *in re* Mr. Ilbert's Bill with pleasure and pain—pleasure because it shews in what chaste English an Indian can chastise and chasten English vilifiers of the Indian character, who not only write out beforehand what they spout forth, but who not unfrequently make such sorry use of their mother tongue—and pain because it is a long tirade of recrimination without a single attempt to argue out the necessity and policy of the Bill. It was here where Mr. Ghose committed the greatest mistake. As a specimen of vituperative eloquence it is fit to take rank with some of the best known efforts of English oratory. We will give some examples. With great gusto Mr. Ghose thus gave it to Mr. Branson:

Well, gentlemen, having said thus much to explain our position and to prevent any misrepresentation, I can no longer resist the temptation of somewhat disburdening my mind on the subject of the late European meeting at Calcutta. (Hear, hear.) It is true the principal offender has since thought fit to publish a sort of an apology in the newspapers. Some of our countrymen of a more forgiving disposition than myself, and among others my esteemed friend, the Editor of the *Hindu Patriot*, have recommended that we should accept the apology which has been offered. But I am utterly unable to agree with my honorable friend. This apology is to my mind absolutely worthless. I will also tell you of another incident which will enable you to judge of the value of such apologies. You all remember how in connection with a recent Municipal case at Calcutta, Mr. Branson made certain grave charges against Mr. Behari Lal Gupta, the Presidency Magistrate. I don't blame him in the least for what he did on that occasion, as he was acting as Counsel under instructions from his client. But hear what happened afterwards. When the case was finished, Mr. Branson had reasons to be satisfied that his instructions were not true, and he accordingly wrote a letter of apology to Mr. Gupta expressing his great regret that he should have been made to utter charges which, he was now convinced, were utterly groundless. Well, if the matter had rested there, nothing could be more gentlemanly or more honorable. But he did not rest there, for we find him again repeating his calumnies at the meeting in the Town Hall of Calcutta without a word of reference to his letter of apology and without explaining what had transpired since that letter was written to induce him to alter his opinion again. No, gentlemen, I beg your pardon. I was not quite accurate in saying that he repeated those charges. He had not the courage to state expressly what he had to charge against Mr. Gupta. But he accomplished his purpose in a more indirect and cowardly manner. He left it to Mr. Keswick to repeat all those charges, and when it came to his own turn to speak, he emphasised Mr. Keswick's statement in more than one sentence, full of inuendo and insinuation. We were told first of all "if we look for tact and judgment and impartiality, then where shall we find them in all this wide world, excepting in the person of Behari Lal Gupta!" In another part of his speech he said, alluding to Mr. Gupta, "this Bengali Babu with all his faults, wants to sit in judgment over you." Now, gentlemen, you see what this gentleman's apologies mean. He will apologise to you to-day if he thinks it desirable to do so for some reason or other, but he will re-assert or re-insinuate his calumnies to-morrow if he thinks he can do so with impunity. No, gentlemen, the memory of the foul language and unheard-of insult which were deliberately uttered on that occasion amid the shouts of a sympathising audience can never be obliterated by any apology however humble, or any retractation however complete. I am anxious there should be no difference of opinion amongst us. I will, therefore with your permission, refer to one or two of the choicest flowers of rhetoric which were used by that consummate master of Billingsgate. We are first of all told that this Bill had been introduced in order to "remove a sentimental grievance which rankled in the minds of a few blatant Bengali Babus." But I ask you, whom would you rather call blatant? The men who speak the language of reason and moderation?—Well, if we are somewhat heated and excited now, we have received ample provocation—I ask you to whom would you rather apply the term blatant? To the men who lift their loyal voices in favour of justice, or to the man who was wicked and seditious enough to call upon Englishmen to "rise as the Athenians rose against Philip," and who, for lac of argument, vilifies a nation and caluminates individuals? (Cheers.) Well, gentlemen, we have in the next place a carefully prepared but nevertheless a feeble paraphrase of a well-known passage in Macaulay's Essays. We are told that "what the stiletto is to the Italian, so are false charges to the Bengali;" but those who live in glass houses ought not to be the first to throw stones at others. It ill becomes the unblushing caluminator, who utters the falsest slanders, to talk in the same breath of false charges with simulated indignation. But, gentlemen, the next passage is richer still. "Verily and truly," said the orator, "the jackass kicketh at the lion." If this, indeed, were the case, nothing could be more presumptuous or ridiculous. But even the jackass is not foolish enough to insult the majesty of the lion. But if the pitiful cur chooses to cover his recreant limbs with the borrowed hide of the lion, then I think, the kick of the jackass is his only fitting punishment. (Loud cheers.) But the climax of impudence is reached in the next passage to which I shall call your attention. With a brutality unsurpassed and unequalled, and with a total absence of shame, he covered himself with lasting infamy by levelling his cowardly insults against the innocent and unoffending women of his country. He dared to tell his hearers that our ladies "were used to the foul multitudes of the Courts.", Let the whole country throughout its length and breadth

declare with one voice what it thinks of such conduct, and if the author of these insults venture to appear in any public assembly, let their ears be greeted with one universal hiss of indignation, so that stung with shame and remorse, they may fly far from the country whose air they have polluted with their pestilential breath. (Cheers.) Well when I read this last infamous passage, I asked myself, can it be that Englishmen have sunk so low as to accept such a veritable 'Yahoo" for their spokesman? (Hisses of indignation.) Can it be that any assembly of English gentlemen, with one single spark of English honor left to them, could have listened to such language with patience? No, gentlemen, I rejoice to think it has not yet come to that. Although in the excitement of the moment some of them might have missed the point of this shameful observation which was artfully put in the midst of a very involved sentence, yet as soon as they had time for reflection, they hastened to protest against such language and to impress their sense of shame at having been obliged to listen to it, and I am happy to think that men, like Mr. J. Croft in Calcutta and Mr. Wordsworth in Bombay, are not solitary exceptions, but represent the views of a large and honorable minority. (Cheers.) Well, gentlemen, one more reference to these speeches, and I have done with the subject. We were taunted several times with being a conquered race But if we have been conquered, we have at any rate the satisfaction of knowing that our conquerors were the free-born sons of England, and not men of a mixed race who only came into existence after the British conquest, and whose exact nationality it would be difficult to determine. Well then, if all these old sores are to be re-opened; if the friendly feelings which have so long subsisted between the two nations, and which for so many years have been fostered and cultivatad by a succession of wise and generous statesmen, are to be rudely disturbed; if we are to be thus taunted and insulted, let it at least be done by genuine Englishmen; if they are disposed so far as to abuse their privileges as conquerors, but not by Eurasians masquerading in the borrowed mantle of Macaulay. (Peals of laughter.) We will not permit any pseudo-Englishmen, any brummagem Britisher, who is "neither fish nor flesh nor good red herring," who is disowned by both England and India alike—We will not permit such a man to slander our nation and insult our country. (No never.)

Again:

Now, gentlemen, it has been said by the *Englishman* newspaper that we, Natives of India, have no *locus standi* in the discussion of the question; but if we are out of Court, what *locus standi* have homeless Armenians, wandering Jews, and mixed races who have neither a country or a nationality? I need not tell you that Armenia is not an English county, but they have not a drop of English blood in their veins, and that they can no more claim to be European British subjects than you or I can. Nor are the Eurasians much better off. The law requires that in order to claim this privilege, you must show that you are either the son or grandson of a European British subject, born of lawful wedlock. Now, there is scarcely any of them who would not have to ascend very much higher than their grandfather in order to trace their descent from an Englishman. Then, why should these foolish Asiatics swell the ranks of this spurious and artificial agitation, forgetting that this privilege is not theirs—forgetting that, even under the existing law, they can be dealt with by Native Deputy Magistrate just in the same way as he can deal with the meanest of his countrymen. Why should these outer barbarians cry "*Romanus civis sum?*" Why should Helots, who have no privileges whatever, shout with the Spartans? (Cheers.) But Sir, we live in strange times. The *Indian Daily News* said the other day of an Armenian speaker at the Town Hall that he was to all intents and purposes, an Englishman. It took my breath away to read it, I asked myself "Stands England where it did?" Or has it come to this that her brave and sturdy sons have to seek for recruits and allies in Armenia? Or is a morbid hatred of the country which gives him shelter alone sufficient to convert an expatriated Asiatic into a freeborn Englishman? But believe me, gentlemen, those very Europeans, who now applaud these men to the skies for shrieking with them and doing their dirty work, entertain at the bottom of their hearts no other feeling than that of contempt for these their miserable allies and, probably, if the truth were known, the bitterest and most unreasonable Anglo-Saxon has no such unmitigated contempt for us, the pure Natives of India.

Mr. Ghose thus honored Sir FitzJames Stephen:

But Sir, a bitter and notorious enemy of this country, Sir Fitz-James Stephen, has recently written a letter to the *Times* urging upon the English people no longer to allow India to be governed on these principles, but substitute for them the doctrine of pure and unmitigated force. It would be useless for me to remind him of what was said on a well-known occasion by one of England's noblest sons, Mr. John Bright, namely, that "Force is no remedy." I say it would be useless, because, a few years ago, Sir F. J. Stephen did not even scruple to make a bitter attack upon the great Tribune, because of his noble and philanthropic views regarding the policy that ought to be pursued in this country. Within a few days afterwards, the Tories who were then in power, rewarded the assailant of Mr. Bright with a seat on the English Bench. Well, having thus risen through dirt to dignity, he might have been content to rest upon his laurels; but no, the spirit of evil is as strong in his breast as ever. One would have thought that even his appetite for mischief would have been amply satiated by the incalculable evil which he wrought during his official career in this country. He it is who was the author of this Criminal Procedure Code, bristling with hateful distinctions, only one of which it is now proposed to amend, and containing provision after provision, adverse to liberty and inconsistent with the sound and impartial administration of justice. It was he who took away from us the right of claiming the writ of Habeas Corpus reserving it only for European British subjects. But if I were to refer to all the unjust Draconian laws of which he was the author, I should never be done till the small hours of the morning. You also remember that he had a principal share in the institution of those Wahabi prosecutions which led to so much needless misery and suffering. In fact, his entire policy was one of repression and more repression, irritation and more irritation, until at last, by goading into frenzy a set of desperate and wicked *non Indian* fanatics, it brought about two terrible disasters which sent a thrill of horror throughout all classes and all races of Her Majesty's Indian subjects. One of the speakers at the late meeting in Calcutta, in his anxiety to throw mud upon our people, did not hesitate to misrepresent the horrible story of the assassination of Chief Justice Norman, and the still more horrible massacre of Cavagnari and his gallant comrades. He showed his knowledge of contemporary history and geography by describing a wild Beluchi in the one instance, and a ruffianly mob of Cabulis in the other as Natives of India. (Roars of laughter.) Well, this is taking us considerably beyond even Lord Beaconsfield's "scientific frontier." (Loud cheers.) But those who imagine that Armenia is an English county, may well be pardoned for thinking that Beluchistan and Cabul are integral portions of India. But, gentlemen, don't be afraid that these gross misrepresentations will take root. Impartial history will declare that the guilt and shame of these deeds of turpitude do not attach to India or to her people. But, besides identifying and properly describing the barbarous perpetrators of these infamous crimes, history will attach no little responsibility to the man who was the chief author of the policy which led to two out of the three deeds of horror of which I have spoken. Well, gentlemen, if Sir Stephen is not satisfied with the mischief he has already done—if his conscience is not overburdened, then nothing you or I can say is likely to make him hesitate in his baneful career. He has already richly won the curses of the Indian people which followed him across the seas, but for achievements like his there can be no fitting or truly adequate reward excepting in the world to come. (Cheers.)

Mr. Lalmohun Ghose has performed his task. He has "disburthened" himself. A solitary effort of one, who knows so well to wield his tongue, may be looked upon as a sort of interlude in the bitter drama of race-strife now going on, but a repetition of it from village to village, town to town, and city to city will be most deplorable. To give it the *imprimatur* of national endorsement would be a serious blunder.

HIGH EDUCATION IN INDIA.

THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY has been discussing the question of utilizing the Premchand Roychand endowment in the best manner possible for the advancement of scientific education in India. This question has been raised by Messrs. Elliott and Pedler in a letter to the Registrar of the University. They remark that "the present scheme of studies and system of collegiate education is so far satisfactory, that it has educated men, who have become High Court Judges, Barristers, Doctors, Engineers, and Civilians, some of whom have been eminent in their profession and distinguished for their ability." "On the other hand," they observe, "we believe it is not too much to say that India, notwithstanding it has enjoyed the advantages of the present system of High Education since 1854, has not yet produced a single man of science worthy of the name, or to be compared with thousands of European scientific men, all more or less known by their work to fame. Amongst all our Indian Graduates there is not one original Mathematician or eminent Astronomer, Geologist, Chemist, Botanist, Biologist, Metallurgist, and so far as we are aware, few if any of the Natives of India have yet contributed an original scientific paper of value to any of the leading scientific Journals of the world." These remarks are too sweeping and are not therefore absolutely correct. But we accept the general position. The reasons for the neglect of scientific study in this country are set forth in the letter under notice. Messrs. Elliott and Pedler write: "the cultivation of science either for itself or for the practical benefit of the country at large, and the development of its resources has scarcely yet begun. The reasons for this are not far to seek. There has been no internal evolution and growth of science." Again: "Scientific research and the practical application of science appear to be foreign to the genius of the people, and if it is to be acquired rapidly, it can only be done by intelligent imitation and careful training at the hands of those who are masters of their subjects, and who are supplied with all requisite modern appliances or apparatus. That is, India can only follow the lead of Western Europe, and must learn from it the methods and habits of scientific investigation. A complete practical and theoretical training in any branch of science (representing the conjunction of experiment and theory which constitutes a developed and growing science) cannot be obtained at any Educational Institution in India. At the various Colleges, science is usually taught by lecture and by book-reading. These can only give some general knowledge of the methods and results of science, such as it may be desirable for all intelligent men to know; but such knowledge as this no more constitutes scientific knowledge or makes its possessor a man of science than listening to a few cases in Court would make a man a lawyer." We do not quite go with Messrs. Elliott and Pedler that "scientific research and the practical application of science appears to be foreign to the genius of the people" of this country. We have no faith in genius of this kind. We do not believe that one nation is more fit to study literature, and another more fit to study science. We hold that God has given equal faculties to all the nations of the world and their developement depends upon the methods of training adopted by different nations. Ancient India produced some of the best astronomers and mathematicians of the world, but this result could not have been attained, if the genius of the people were against the study of science. The truth is that there is no suitable agency in this country to impart proper scientific education nor is proper encouragement given to such education. There can be of course no difference of opinion that in the present state of the culture of science in India it must follow the lead of Europe and America, but it is the duty of the State to provide the necessary means for the cultivation of science in this country. Messrs. Elliott and Pedler state the bare truth when they say that a complete practical and theoretical training in any branch of science cannot be obtained at any Educational Institution in India. And yet it is pretended that the Government has done all it could do to promote high education in India. Science culture forms a leading part of liberal education in every civilized country, but in India it is admitted there is not a single educational institution, which can impart "a complete practical and theoretical training in any branch of science." Could there be a more discreditable admission than this? But what is the remedy which Messrs. Elliott and Pedler propose? They propose to send to Europe periodically a single student in the person of Premchand Roychand scholar. This clever device, which will not cost the Government any thing, will satisfy the intellectual aspirations of the nation, will meet the needs for scientific study, and will secure the advancement of science in India! Could any thing be more preposterous than this? We submit that this subject ought to be considered by the Education Commission and that adequate grant should be made for this purpose. The University ought to make a representation to the Education Commission and the Government on the subject instead of seeking to shift the foundation of the Premchand Roychand endowment. Under the present system scientific education in India is a sham, and we hope the Education Commission will not tolerate it.

REMARKS ON THE AMENDED MUNICIPAL BILL.

(BY AN ENGLISH CRITIC.)

ON FIRST glancing at the Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to Municipalities in Bengal, as revised by the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, and published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 28th March, the following criticisms occur to us:

By Section 29 it is enacted that the "Commissioners shall, in the name of their Chairman, by the description of the Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners of——, be a body corporate, and have perpetual succession, and a common seal, and in such name shall sue and be sued. Such common seal shall have the name of the Municipality engraven thereon in legible characters," &c. Whatever "description" of Chairman a Municipality may have, would not "designation" be a better word than "description" in the sentence just quoted? But, the further question arises as to what the inscription on the common seal is to be. What is to be the name, under the Act, of any Municipality? Of course it ought to be "the Corporation of the Municipality (or town) of——," but the Bill says it is to be "the Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners of——." And, thereby, according to the Bill, the latter will be the inscription on the common seal. Would it not be better and more in accordance with fact to enact that every Municipality shall have an *un-*

common seal? But now arises a serious question —what is a Commissioner. A "Commissioner of Revenue and Police" is perhaps the best known specimen of the genus in India; but we have also in every province Sanitary Commissioners, and perhaps others. These are high functionaries, who have each a definite commission entrusted to them, and the term is at least a well understood one, and implies a certain amount of dignity, and also corresponding pay. Then we have "Commissions" constituted by Government to report on a variety of matters, such as the Education Commission; but is a member of such a body a Commissioner? Be this as it may, why in the name of all that is congruous should each individual member of a commission for managing the affairs of a petty town which must not be in number less than nine and may number as many as thirty, be called a Commissioner, which is the designation of the Chief Government official in a whole Division? We believe that in the Punjab at least, which writing in Calcutta we should be afraid to call a more enlightened country than Bengal, this "anomaly" has purposely been provided against by designing these Town Councillors "members of the Municipal Committee of ——." It is, however, awkward to use the word Committee for the general body of rulers of a town, for it involves the use of prefixes to designate the Committees of their own body into which they may split themselves; they must then be called Grand or Sub-Committees, or Special Committees, or perhaps Sub-Deputy Assisting Committees. But now we find ourselves face to face with a still more serious question—what is a Municipality? According to Section 6 of the Bill a "Municipality" means any place in which the Act, or any part thereof, is in force. But by Section 24 the Local Government "shall appoint the Chairman of every Municipality mentioned in the second schedule of this Act." And, again, "every Municipality, the name of which is not included in the said schedule, shall, at a meeting, elect its Chairman." That is to say every *place* in which the Act is in force, and is not named in the second schedule, shall, at a meeting, elect its Chairman. How is a place to meet? And if that difficulty can be overcome, how is a place to elect its Chairman? As by Section 25 the "Commissioners" are empowered to remove the Chairman, it may be presumed that it is intended to give them first the power of electing him. But this is not done. The "place" itself and not the Commissioners is to elect the Chairman. If this enactment has any meaning at all it must be that the Chairman is to be elected by the voters in meeting assembled.

Again, what is the phrase "Chairman of a Municipality" intended to mean?—Probably—"Ruler of a Municipality." But if so "Chairman of a Republic" would be as good a phrase, and is there any instance of a Republic giving its chief Magistrate such an absurd title. A "Chairman" is the person who occupies the principal chair, and presides over a meeting. In the present case the "Chairman" will occupy the chair at meetings of the Municipal Commissioners, and he is therefore Chairman of that body and not Chairman of the place.

To put the whole matter of titles on an intelligible and consistent footing let us suggest that the governing body of a Municipality be called the "Municipal Commission" and that the members of the Commission be called members of the "Municipal Commission" (not "Committee" as in the Punjab) and that the Chairman be called "Chairman (or President) of the Municipal Commission," and that under Section 29 the designation of the body corporate be "the Municipal Commission of—," and that that name be engraven on their common seal. Also let it be made clear that the Chairman is to be elected by the Members of the Commission in meeting assembled, as we presume is the intention.

AFFAIRS AT BOMBAY.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Bombay, April 2.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS under the existing Act have just taken place in the large cities of Poona, Surat, Ahmedabad, Satara, Ahmednagar, Belgaum, and others throughout the Mofussil of this Presidency. The results, I understand, have been surprisingly gratifying, especially in three important respects, namely, (1) in the large number of voters who have interested themselves in the elections, (2) in the larger number of candidates than there are seats for who have come forward to contest the elections, and (3) in the return, upon the whole, of fit and representative men, to take their share in the administration of local affairs. For the present these elections have been confined to the city municipalities. Up till lately, in fact, ever since the creation of city Municipalities their number has remained fixed at ten, and none of them had the elective franchise granted them, though Poona, Ahmedabad, Surat, and other cities had often memorialised Government praying for the grant of the elective right. It was only under the new policy of the Government of India, and the strong determination shown in the Resolution of the 18th May last to introduce the elective principle throughout the cities of India, wherever it was possible, that Sir James Fergusson's Government, under pressure from Simla, declared in March last, that the elective franchise was given to the cities of Poona, Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Ahmedabad, Broach, Surat, Kurrachee, Hyderabad, Shikarpore and Sukkur Government however, could not rest here. They felt it necessary to add to the number of city Municipalities, thereby widening the scope for the exercise of the elective franchise. Hence in October last, to the 10 cities Government added 14 others, namely, Veeramgaum, Naddiad, Thanna, Kulian, Satara, Nasik, Yeala, Malegaum, Pundherpur, Dhulia, Belgaum, Dharwar, Hupli, and Rutnagiri, whose status was raised, making in all 24 city Municipalities which from this month have the elected representatives admitted into them under the existing Act. Thus the past month was a month of bustle and stir in almost all these cities. The greatest enthusiasm was manifested on the election day in each of the cities. The polling stations were crowded by voters and spectators, each candidate trying to push his voters forward amidst the throng and excitement of the day. Every thing, however, was conducted in an orderly manner, and the returns of members have given general satisfaction. These elections afford a strong commentary on what the district officials wrote a few months back as to the general apathy and want of interest shown by the people in the management of municipal affairs. It was also contended that the elective system could scarcely return better or more qualified men than those which Government have been in the habit of nominating. These views have been falsified to a degree that appears to have amazed even the district officials themselves. Not only have the greatest enthusiasm been manifested in the elections but curiously enough the members returned are in almost all cases other than those hitherto nominated by Government, and who, in point of intelligence, are believed to be by no means inferior to Government nominees, whereas in point of independence there are certainly known to be far superior. Of all Mofussil cities, however, Poona seems to have manifested the greatest interest in these elections. The accounts from that city state that 'the streets of Poona were never before seen to be so crowded as during the eight hours the polling stations remained. Open carriages were heard rattling through the streets; crowds of people talked over the relative merits of the candidates as they held towards the polling stations; in short, there was such a rush in and out of the different streets that even the youngest school-boy knew what all that was for. The elections themselves were no less interesting, except in one ward there was competition between rival candidates, and it was very amusing to see each candidate leading his voter to the polling box. By eight o'clock in the morning the interest at the polling boxes of two wards cooled down, when it was known that the rival candidates had withdrawn in favor of their betters. But the other nine polling stations did not lose their interest till the last half an hour. The Sadashiv Peth polling station outdid all others in interest, zeal, and bitterness as well, and this state of public feeling continued till the last third minute, when the box was closed.' The same interest seems to have been exhibited at almost every city municipality in the Presidency.

The scheme for introducing medical women into India has been most liberally responded to by the public of Bombay. The subscriptions to the Fund have been over Rs. 40,000, but the most pleasing feature of the liberality with which it has been supported is that a Parsi gentleman has munificently offered a lakh of rupees for a Hospital for women and children, bearing the donor's name. This generosity has enabled Messrs. Kettridge and Sorabji Shapurji Bengali to extend the scope of the original scheme, and to embrace in it that which was suggested as the most desirable part or accompaniment of it, namely, some substantial and enduring provision for female medical education in Bombay. No doubt bringing European or American doctresses would be of benefit to Bombay, but that benefit would not be of a permanent character unless their services were turned to account in preparing native women for this profession. Indeed, for the first seven or eight years the services of medical women from England or America would be absolutely necessary; but while attending to their immediate duties in curing female diseases, they would be most usefully employed in training up a batch of native doctresses. Messrs. Kettridge and Bengali have requested the University of Bombay to grant the degree of L. M. and S. to female students on passing the course at present laid down for males. On the supposition that this request will be granted by the University, they have applied to Government to remit the fees of five female students during the period of their study at the Grant Medical College. In the event of these proposals being agreed to by the University and the Government, it is proposed to devote a portion of the fund to the granting of five scholarships to female students pursuing their studies at the Grant College. It is expected that the development of the scheme will embrace four distinct objects, which are:—to bring out women doctors from England, to found a dispensary for the poor, to provide for medical education for female students through the Grant Medical College, and to found a hospital for women and children. Mr. Kettredge who left Bombay by last mail, will arrange at once in England for sending out lady doctors to Bombay, while the other parts of the scheme are being matured.

I see that correspondents from your side are trying in one of the daily papers here to justify the conduct of the Calcutta Town Hall meeting in the eyes of the Bombay public, but the more they attempt to defend their conduct, the more ridiculous they make themselves. The real sting of the excitement in Bengal does not, it seems to me, lie so much in the passing of the Jurisdiction Bill, which after all appears to them to be a very small affair, as in the long chain of measures which have formed the principal feature of Lord Ripon's domestic policy ever since his Government applied themselves to the internal administration of India, but which have become unpalatable, nay intolerable, to the non-official Europeans. In their eyes the Government of India have entered upon a course of policy which is fraught with serious danger to British interests in this country. The salaries of Calcutta Judges have been cut down to the Bombay level, the post of Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court was given to a native of Bengal; the local Self-government policy is intended to vest larger powers in non-official natives. Then follows the Roorkee Resolution which reserves the appointments in the Public Works Department to students of the Roorkee College who are pure Asiatics. All these and many other measures, so unpalatable to the non-official Europeans, have 'produced a heap of inflammable materials on which Mr. Ilbert's Bill has acted like a spark, but which would in any case have blown up before long by spontaneous combustion. It seems the Jurisdiction Bill has acted as the last straw to break the camel's back. Under other circumstances the Bill would not have excited this ebullition of feeling. Nor would it have been much noticed under another Viceroy, but coming after so many measures which have proved as gall and wormwood to the Europeans, it has served as a peg on which to hang and support the long pent-up feelings of disapproval of the philo-native policy of Lord Ripon, but the *Bombay Gazette* of Friday last has shown very ably that some of the measures for which Lord Ripon and his Government have been abused were simply a legacy, which the present Government inherited from its predecessor. Lord Ripon is no more to be held responsible for them than he is for the creation of the Native Civil Service. Nay, in the case of the appointments of 'pure Asiatics,' his Government delayed action, but the orders of the Indian Secretary of State, founded upon the policy of Lord Cranbrook and of the late Conservative Government, were prompt and decisive, and had to be acted upon forthwith. What can be more unjust therefore than to hold Lord Ripon answerable for measures which did not emanate either from the present Secretary of State or from the present Ministry. In connection with this subject the English mail of Thursday last has brought us a collection of English opinion, on the Bill before the Viceroy's statement was published. Amidst much that is rubbish and frivolous, it is satisfactory to find that it embraces the opinions of two eminent Anglo-Indian—both retired Bengal officials who are thoroughly conversant with the subject they write about. Sir George Campbell, as your late Lieutenant-Governor, took an active part in the discussions on the question in 1872. He gives a faithful history of the matter. 'The only question,' says he, 'is whether

half-a-dozen native civil servants in the interior may have a p wer which they will most rarely be called upon to exercise.' Another remarkable testimony comes from Mr. Justice Markby, formerly a Judge of the Calcutta High Court and Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University. Hundreds of cases, says he, 'occur every year in which Europeans are concerned, and which are tried by native Judges, and yet I never knew a single case in which a charge of unfairness was brought home to a native Judge by a European. I cannot even recollect such a charge having been made. Curiously enough, such charges—always, I believe unfounded—are not unfrequently made against European Magistrates.' It seems to me that the opinions of such high authorities as Sir George Campbell and Dr. Markby should be conclusive on a question like the present.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THE FACULTY OF ARTS, Calcutta University, appointed a Committee to report on the best means of utilizing the Premchand Roychand endowment. They recommended that the studentship be given only as an encouragement for the study of science, and that the student be required to prosecute such study in Europe. The Faculty upon a motion of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra has decided to award the studentship in alternate years for proficiency in literary and scientific subjects, and has upon a motion of Mr. A. M. Bose furthermore resolved that the science student must proceed to Europe and stay there for three or four years in order to acquire a thorough knowledge of it. It is the compulsory nature of the Resolution which is repugnant to our sense of propriety and justice in the matter. It ought to be left to the option of the student to go to Europe or not for the study of science.

WE HAVE received several letters protesting against the appointment of Mr. Warde-Jones to be in temporary charge of the important Sub-Division of Serampore. We cannot make room for all the letters, but we give two:

No. I.

"Perhaps it was owing to pressure of important matters or through oversight that you omitted to notice the appointment as per *Calcutta Gazette* of Wednesday, the 28th ul imo, of Mr. N. Warde Jones, Temporary Deputy Magistrate, to be in temporary charge of the Sub-Division of Serampore. This gentleman, who is in receipt of Rs. 250 per month, and who is not yet confirmed in the Subordinate Executive Service, is transferred from Hooghly and placed in charge of such a large sub-division as Serampore, however short the period be, when there is an experienced Native Deputy Magistrate in the sub-division on receipt of a salary of Rs. 500 per mensem and who performs the duties of the sub-divisional officer for 3 or 4 months while that officer is on annual tour. It is certainly a bad administrative policy to place a temporary Deputy Magistrate on 250 a month as the head of a sub-division when there are officers drawing Rs 400 500 and 700 per month (Assistant Superintendent of Police, Deputy Magistrate and Civil Medical Officer, etc.,) and who are held to be his Subordinates.—Oh! the crime of color!

No. II.

"Mr. Jones has lately been put in charge of the Serampore sub-division, *vice* Mr. Collier transferred. Mr. Jones is a Deputy Magistrate of the lowest grade and is green in the Sub-Executive Service; nevertheless he is drafted from the Sudder Station of Hooghly where there are a Joint-Magistrate and experienced Deputy Magistrates, all natives though, and is quietly put over the head of the local Deputy who occupies a high place in the service and has been exercising full powers for many a long year.

Now has this appointment anything to do with the circumstances that there resi le at Se ampore a few Britishers of pure or mixed blood But then Mr. Jones is not Justice of the Peace and is therefore in regard to the White Brahmins as much a Pariah Magistrate as any of the darkees. Verily Mr. Editor the ways of the Lord of Belvedere are inscrutable.

We confess this appointment marks a retrograde policy. Is this an outcome of the agitation against Mr. Ilbert's Bill?

WE CONGRATULATE the British Indian Association on the completion of the third decade of its existence. It held its thirty-first annual meeting on Thursday last. For the last thirty years the Association through goodreport and evil report has steadily pursued its career of usefulness and served the nation with unflagging industry and zeal and with considerable success. We are glad to observe that our illustrious countryman, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, has been a second time elected the President of the Association. There were some interesting discussions at last Thursday's meeting on the Rent Bill and the Local Boards Bill. We give the first instalment of the report of the meeting in a supplement.

LORD LAWRENCE was a sagacious statesman, and what he wrote years ago about difficulties in the way of the Indian Reformer holds good to the letter to this day. We extract the following from a letter of his Lordship to Sir Erskine Perry published in his Life by Mr. Bosworth Smith:

"If anything is done or attempted to be done to help the natives, a general howl is raised, which reverberates in England, and finds sympathy and support there. I feel quite bewildered sometimes what to do Every one is, in the abstract, for justice, moderation, and such-like excellent qualities, but when one comes to apply such principles so as to affect anybody's interests, then a change comes over them. * * * No doubt, the capitalist and speculator do good in their way, and, when they are just men, here is no drawback to the advantages which follow their labours. But there are many who have little thought but for their own interests."

Lord Ripon realizes what Lord Lawrence predicted. It is an unhappy state of things.

IT WOULD appear from the reply of the Under-Secretary of State for India to a question of Mr. Baxter that the subject of the Indian Ecclesiastical establishment is now engaging the attention of Lord Ripon's Government. We do not know what the views of Lord Ripon on the subject are, but we hope his Lordship's decision will be in accordance with the righteous spirit of his general administration.

APROPOS of the investiture of the new Newab of Moorshedabad, we give below the Proclamation of Government issued on the installation of his father on the Moorshedabad Guddi:

FORT WILLIAM.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, 19TH DECEMBER, 1838.
Proclamation.

By order of the Governor General of India in Council. The Deputy Governor of Bengal notifies to the Public and to the Allies of the British Government and to all friendly powers, that the Nawab Shoojahool Moolk, Ihtisham-ood-Dowlah, Hoomayoon Jah, Syed Mobaruck Ullee Khan Bahadoor, Feeroz Jung having departed this life at Moorshidabad on the 3rd October, 1838, his son the Nawab Syud Monsoor Ullee Khan has succeeded to the hereditary honors and dignities of the Nizamut and Subadary of Bengal, Behar and Orissa and to have assumed and to exercise the authority, dignities and privileges thereof, under the style and title of Mootizum-ool-Moolk, Mohsen-ood-Dowlah, Fureedoon Jah, Syud Munsoor Ullee Khan Bahadoor, Nusrup Jung.

Published and proclaimed by His Honor the Deputy Governor of Bengal.

(Sd.) H. T. PRINSEP,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

General order by the Honorable the Deputy Governor of Bengal under date the 19 h December 1838.

The Honorable the Deputy Governor of Bengal has been pleased to direct, that a salute of 19 guns be fired from the Ramparts of For William, at 12 o'clock this day in honor of the occasion of his Highness Syud Monsoor ullee khan to the Masnad of the Provinces of Bengal Behar and Orissa and that the above proclamation be read at the head of all the Troops in garrison at sunset this evening under a salute of three volley of musketry.

(Sd.) H. T. PRINSEP.
Secy. to Govt. of Bengal.

Compare this Proclamation with the notification which has been issued on the present occasion. The latter simply notifies that the title of Newab Bahadur has been conferred upon the heir of the ex-Newab-Nazim. Oh! what a falling-off is there!

THE FOLLOWING conversations took place in the House of Commons anent the Criminal Jurisdiction Bill:

Mr. Onslow asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention had been called to the alarming statements regarding the universal feeling of Europeans and Eurasians in India against the Criminal Procedure Bill, which had been introduced in India with the sanction of the late Secretary of State for India; and whether he would not consider it most advisable, in order to maintain the growing good feeling between the natives and Europeans which had been so conspicuous of late years, to telegraph at once to the Viceroy to withdraw the Bill.

Mr. Gladstone said that, without entering into a discussion of certain points in the question, he might state that the Government were aware that there had been dissatisfaction in India on the matter, and their attention had been called to it, but they did not think it their duty to instruct the Viceroy to withdraw the Bill. The papers relating to that Bill would be laid on the table of the House, and in due course no further steps would be taken until November, so that there would be ample time for the consideration of the subject. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Onslow asked whether the Prime Minister did not consider it a very grave and serious matter indeed that this sore should remain open from now till November.

Mr. Gladstone.—Her Majesty's Government will give their best attention to the question of the hon. member, but certainly we could not give a pledge of that kind to the hon. member, nor do I see on the face of the case how I can give any other answer to the hon. member.

Mr. Onslow.—Before Easter I shall repeat the question.

The question has assumed a serious aspect. It is simply this—whether the Government should give way to clamour, and whether it would maintain its dignity and prestige in the eyes of the people, if it should *do so*. We invite the impartial British public to ponder over this question.

THE FOLLOWING question was put in the House of Lords regarding Mr. Ilbert's Bill:

The Marquis of Salisbury:—I beg to ask the noble Earl, the Secretary of State for India, whether he has received any intelligence respecting the meetings which have been held in Madras and Calcutta with reference to the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill, and also—which is the most important part of my question—whether it is true that Her Majesty's Goverment have pledged themselves to carry the Bill through, and whether the Bill has received the assent of Her Majesty's Government in England.

The Earl of Kimberley:—My Lords, I have no official information respecting the meetings in Madras and Calcutta. As to the last question of the noble Marquis, I may say that he will find in the papers I propose to lay on the table to morrow, which will be distributed in a few days, that the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council was formally given to the Bill.

THE FOLLOWING conversations took place in the House of Commons on the subject of the Jurisdiction Bill:

March 8.—Mr. MacFarlane asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether it was true that a number of Native gentlemen were exempted from personal appearance in the Courts of law in India, and all women above a certain rank; whether he would lay upon the table of the House a return showing the total number of personal and other exemptions; and whether, in the event of the Bill subjecting Europeans to trial by Native Magistrates becoming law, he would urge upon the Government of India the propriety of abolishing all class distinctions and anomalies.

Mr. J. K. Cross:—Women who, according to Native ideas, ought not to be seen in public, are exempt from personal appearance in the Civil Courts. Their evidence is either taken by Commission, or they are brought into Court and examined in palanquins. They are not exempt from arrest in execution of civil process, nor upon a criminal charge. Local Governments may, by notification in the *Gazette*, exempt from personal appearance in the civil Courts any man whose rank they consider entitled him to the privilege. But those who claim this privilege are liable for the costs of the commission under which their evidence is taken. In criminal matters men enjoy no privilege except that those exempted from personal appearance in civil courts do not serve as Jurors or Assessors. The India Office is unable to furnish the return asked for; and, should the Bill referred to become law, Government has no intention of making the changes asked for by the Honorable Member.

Mr. Cross is quite right. There is no exemption of any class of Indian subjects from the ordinary jurisdiction of the courts of the country.

THE FOLLOWING notices of motions have been given in the House of Commons:

MR. ASHMEAD BARTLETT:—On the Indian Budget, or on a suitable occasion, to move that the proposed change in Criminal Procedure in India is contrary to the opinion of all classes in that country, unnecessary, and inexpedient.

Mr. Onslow:—On March 12 to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the alarming statements with respect to the feeling excited in India in connection with the Criminal Procedure Bill, and whether he would not think it most advisable, in order to retain the growing good feeling between Natives and Europeans, to telegraph to the Viceroy to withdraw the Bill.

THE REPORT of the debate on Mr. Ilbert's Bill has we are glad to observe opened the eyes of the British public. The *Home News* says:

So far as there can be said to exist any definite sentiment at home in the matter, that sentiment seems to be one of doubt and misgiving. Much prejudice has been raised against the measure, but it is as yet founded, not upon the conviction which comes of knowledge, but upon the idea that whenever we are dealing with any questions which can affect the position of Englishmen as a governing race in any quarter of the world, it is wise to act upon the principle *quieta non movere*, and to refrain from the introduction of any changes likely to provoke discontent on the part of those who administer our Empire abroad, or threatening in any degree the ascendency of the dominant race. This is only natural, and is even praiseworthy. The English people hear of a meditated alteration in the judicial system of India. They are told it is disapproved by the majority of their countrymen in India, and they automatically endorse the objections that are put before them in a more or less plausible shape.

The Conservative *Standard* we are glad to note has led the way in correcting English opinion on the subject. Most of the Liberal journals support the Bill. If the British public will only calmly and dispassionately consider the question, we have no reason to fear their verdict.

THE OFFICIAL correspondence on the subject of Mr. Ilbert's Bill has been published in the shape of a Parliamentary Blue-book. We give the following extract from the despatch of the Government of India:

The new Code of Criminal Procedure does not come into force before the first day of January 1883, and it appeared to

as desirable to obtain, without dealy, in a confidential shape, the opinions of the different local Governments upon the suggestion thrown out by Sir Ashley Eden, in order that if any amendment of the law was found to be necessary, it might be as far as possible synchronous with the commencement of the operation of the revised Code. It appears to us clear that the status in the Covenanted Service of those native gentlemen who have already obtained admission to its ranks is fast becoming so serious, and their numbers are yearly growing so rapidly, that we cannot longer with justice decline to deal with the question; and if changes in the law are inevitable, as we think they are, it seems to us desirable to make them at a time when the whole machinery of our criminal administration is being put on an improved footing. The anomalous nature of the present arrangements is forcibly brought out in Mr. Gupta's own case. Wkile officiating as presidency magistrate he had under the law as it stands full powers over European British subjects, even in comparatively serious cases, and exercised these with satisfaction to the local government and the public. On removal to a more responsible appointment in the interior he ceased to be qualified to deal with even the most trivial cases affecting Europeans,

The following was Lord Hartington's reply:

Your lordship in council considers (for the reasons stated in your despateh) that no change in the law will be satisfactory or stable which fails to remove from the statute book at once and completely every judicial disqualification which is based merely on race distinctions; and you propose to confine the office of justice of the peace, and with it the power of trying European British subjects, to those persons, whether European or native, who have received a training that may be presumed to guarantee the possession of the qualities required for the proper disposal of such cases. In that view you think that all district magistrates and sessions judges should be vested with the powers in question in virtue of their office, and a definite provision in the law; and you would empower the local governments to confer these powers, outside the Presidency towns, upon those members *(a)* of the Covenanted Civil Service, *(b)* of the Native Civil Service constituted under the statutory rules, and *(c)* of non-regulation Commissions who are already exercising first-class magisterial powers, and are in their opinion fit to be entrusted with these further powers. These proposals, if carried out, would completely remove from the law all distinctions based merely on the race of the judge, and your Excellency in council asks me to sanction the introduction of a Bill to give effect to them. Your lordship's despatch, and the opinions recorded by the various local Governments and authorities whom you have consulted have been very carefully considered by me in council, and I agree in the conclusion arrived at by your Excellency that the time has come when it is necessary to make the alterations in the law which you propose. I am therefore prepared to sanction the introduction of a Bill such as you suggest.

We venture to make one slight correction. Mr. Ilbert's Bill does not wholly remove the race disqualification, for it does not extend to native Deputy Magistrates.

WE HAVE such high respect for the present editor of *Allen's Indian Mail* that we cannot but deeply regret that he too should give way to mere clamour on the subject of Mr. Ilbert's Bill. He writes: "The tempest aroused by Lord Ripon's folly and incompetence in India has grown to a hurricane that threatens the most serious consequences to the Empire, if this rash and weak ruler be not promptly checked or recalled by the Cabinet." Again: "The striking parallel between the results achieved by the present Government in Ireland and in India, will surely strike every honest and impartial observer. But we prefer not to dwell on this point; for we feel keenly that the situation in India is so complicated already by Lord Ripon's shameless bid for native popularity, and is altogether so fraught with imminent peril, that it is the duty of every patriot to refrain from any observations, however true they may be, that can possibly tend unnessarily to increase the existing tension." Further: "If Lord Ripon wishes a monument to illustrate his rule in India, he has only to look around him. He will see a portion of the Press preaching blank sedition, a Vigilance Committee of Europeans sitting in Calcutta, the army in a ferment, the volunteers about to resign *en masse*, the whole country once more, alas! divided into hostile camps, breathing defiance against each other, the good feeling fostered during years of good government swept away at a blow, and moderate, thoughtful men like Mr. Rivers Thompson and the Raja Siva Pershad looking on *from both sides* in helpless dismay." We are really ashamed of this language used towards a Ruler, who is doing his best to govern the country in consonance with the just and generous behests of our beloved Sovereign contained in Her Gracious Proclamation. And yet our good brother substantialy supports Lord Ripon's Bill. He says: "When the question was first mooted, we pointed out that the case for abolishing every invidious distinction between those native civilians who had entered the Service in the same way as others and their English compeers seemed to us unanswerable. We believe that no serious opposition would be offered to this modification of Lord Ripon's measure." The Bill will practically go no further, for it will rest with the Local Governments to invest Native Civilians with the proposed jurisdiction.

THE SHOE QUESTION raised in the High Court by Mr. Justice Norris has not escaped the lynx eye of Mr. O'Donnell. The following question was put by him in the House of Commons:

MR. JUSTICE NORRIS.

In reply to Mr. O'Donnel, who inquired whether Mr. Justice Norris had issued orders that "no Native should be admitted to his Court with Native shoe on,"

Mr, Cross said: Taking off the Indian shoe upon entering a Court or private room is among Natives much the same thing as taking off the hat is among Englishmen, and British Courts of Justice in India can insist upon being treated with customary courtesy and respect. If Mr. Justice Norris has issued any orders on his subject, they would not be reported home.

We are glad to say that the shoe question has been quietly dropped by Mr. Justice Norris.

WE UNDERSTAND that steps are to be taken at once to commence operations for the Tarkeshur Railway. We hear that two Deputy Collectors are to be entertained for this work. It strikes us that if the Deputy Collector in charge of the land acquisition work for the Central Bengal Railway, who has his head-quarters at Dum-Dum, be entrusted with this additional work, there would be a saving of establishment and salary. Of course the Board knows what arrangement would be the best, but we consider it our duty to urge the claims of economy.

IT GIVES us much pleasure to announce that Maharani Shurnomoyee has contributed Rs. 1000 in aid of the Broughton School, Calcutta.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL — ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN INFANTILE WASTING AND DEBILITY OF CHILDREN.—Thomas Hunt, Esq., late Medical Officer of Health, St. Giles's and Bloomsbury, writes:—"In badly-nourished infants, Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is invaluable. The rapidity with which two or three teaspoonfuls a day will fatten a young child is astonishing. The weight gained is three times the weight of the Oil swallowed, or more; and, as children generally like the taste of Dr. de Jongh's Oil, and when it is given them, often cry for more, it appears as though there were some prospect of deliverance for the appalling multitude of children who figure in the weekly bills of mortality issued from the office of the Registrar General." Dr. R. C. Croft, Author of "Handbook for the Nursery" writes "Dr de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is almost a specific in many of the Diseases peculiar to Infancy and Childhood, and I have seen marked benefit produced by its use. Patients prefer it to the Pale Oils, and are able to retain it more comfortably." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, quarts with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consigness on the capsule and the lable under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 77, Strand, London. 8

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 7th April, 1883.

The position of our commercial affairs continues inactive and nothing of importance has transpired during the past fortnight except revival in the trade for piece-goods to some extent. Owing to the news of large clearances of old stocks from the marts at Cawnpore, Delhi and some other places a demand sprung up which led to a fair amount of operations chiefly in Glasgow Goods, whilst Manchester descriptions also had a share in it. These operations, however, did not help prices to improve; previous rates are still ruling.

Yarns both import and country manufacture did not experience any change for the better, there have been some sales of the latter of low counts at previous rates.

In exports nothing of importance has transpired.

Rice—There have been transactions in Ballam, Kazla and low table sort and slight advancing rates chiefly for the continent.

Jute has been in fair demand, but prices have advanced in consequence of supplies having fallen off and stocks being reduced.

Monetary.

Money during the period under review maintained its stringency and supported the previous high rates for interest and discount throughout the week, but the announcement of the sudden reduction of one per cent. by the Bank of Bengal of its rates for interest and discount all round took the market by surprise and the example was ollowed immediately by other banks, who advanced loans, securities at six per cent.

Government Securities.

During the period there were various fluctuations and since the last few days were steady and prices gradually advancing but owing to the reduction of 1 per cent. of interest by the Banks—rates at once advanced and were at the close as follow:—

4	per cent.	... 101-1 at 101-2
4½	„	... 105-12

Joint-Stock Shares.

This market has been less active and operations confined to Jute industries. I. G. S. and select T. Stocks, prices for these are still moving upwards.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Deputy Commissioner, Dumka	5	8	0
Moulvi Abdas Sobhan, Champatola	12	0	0
J. S. Ramaswamy Iengar, Nagapatam	3	8	0
Moulvi Buzlul Huq, Nookhally	3	0	0
Manager Hindu Patriot, Bombay	6	6	0
Raja Bahadoor of Nilambor	4	10	0
L. E. H. Yates, the Institute Syudpore	2	0	0
Baboo Sing, Etwah	3	5	0
C. S. Shashea Naido, Esq., Kalinaghur	8	4	0
Rai Jogendro Narain Roy, Bahadur, Lalgola	13	4	0
Babu Upendro Dev Narain Singh, Chupra	6	8	0
„ Doorgaprosunno Das, Kalia	10	0	0
„ Mohendro Nath Sircar, Firu	13	4	0
„ Prannath Pundit, Chowak	13	4	0
„ Bepin Behary Banerji, Serguja	6	10	0
„ Mohendro Nath Mitra, Dangri	5	0	0
„ Prosunno Cumar Das, Dacca	10	0	0
„ Kristodhone Banerjee, Cooch Behar	13	4	0
„ Davichurn Amastho Gosri, Dt. Nuddya	6	10	0
„ Devendrochunder Mookerjee, Hazaribaugh	6	10	0
„ Sheo Nundon Roy, Bankipore	6	10	0
„ Janoky Saron Sahai, Motihari	6	10	0
„ Dwarkanath Mookerjee, Revelgunge	3	4	0
„ Gunga Sing, Rawal Pindi	7	0	0
„ Toolsy Das Roy, Shahabad	2	4	0
„ Krishnachunder Dass, chupra	13	4	0
„ Troyluckonath Mookerjee, Gowhatty	6	10	0
„ Hurrydas Mookerjee, cooch Behar	3	4	0
„ Tariny Prosad, Bhaugulpore	13	4	0
„ Gobindochunder Das, Jenapur Dhurumsala	13	4	0
„ Sreeram Gangooly, Krishnaghur	6	10	0
„ Koonjobehary Dey, Duspala	13	4	0
„ Jodoo Nath chatterjee, Saidpore, Rungpore	3	5	0
„ Issur chunder Seal, Dacca	6	10	0
„ Javarilal Umasunker, Bombay	6	10	0
„ Promothonath Sircar, Nilphamari	6	9	0
„ Ombicachurn Mookerji, Baduria	8	4	0
„ Soshivoosun Ukil, Kushtea	6	10	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*April* 4, 1883.

General—29th March—Mr H J S Cotton. CS, reported his departure from India on furlough on 16th March 1883.

30th March—Mr C S Bayley, Offg Under-Secy to the Govt of Bengal is allowed leave for three months, from 4th prox.

3rd April—Baboo Bhugwan Chunder Sen, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, on settelment duty, is vested with powers of a Depy Colr, under Regulation IX of 1883, in Dacca, Furreedpore, Backergange, and Mymensingh in the Dacca Divn, and in Tipperah and Noakholly in the Chittagong Divn.

The powers of a Colr, under Regulation VII of 1822, with which Baboo Bhugwan Chunder Sen, was vested under order of 2nd Aug, 1881, are withdrawn.

Mr W C Muller, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Burdwan, is vested with powers of a Colr under Act X of 1870 in that dist.

Ecclesiastical—31st March—The Rev J O F Willcocks, Chapln of St James' Church, Calcutta, is allowed leave for two months and fourteen days, from 9th April, 1883.

2nd April—In supersession of orders of 6th ult, Mr A Ewbank, Principal, Patna College, furlough for seven months and fifteen days, from 12th May next.

3rd April—Baboo Rajani Kanta Chaudhuri, Law Lecturer, Dacca Collage, leave for two months without pay.

Baboo Trailakya Nath Basu, BL, temply to be Law Lecturer, Dacca College, during absence of Baboo Rajani Kanta Chaudhuri.

Opium—31st March—Mr R Fraser, Asst Sub-Depy Opium Agent Benares Agency, leave for two months, from 1st Jany last, from date he availed himself of it.

Jail—3rd April—Mr H H Watson, Persl Asst to the Inspr-Genl of Jails leave for two months.

Baboo Saroda Prosad Sen, to act as persl Asst to the Inspr-Genl of Jails during absence of Mr H H Watson.

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A private tutor to teach in all the subjects including Sanscrit, two boys of the undersigned, one reading in the Entrance and the other in the preparatory class. Pay Rs. 30 per month, board and lodging free. A graduate will be preferred. Candidates from respectable persons of good moral character required.

SOSHEE BHOOSUN MOOKERJEE,
Bhagulpoor, 3rd Ayril 1883.

Wanted a Draughtsman salary Rs. 60 per month, apply to Executive Engineer 2nd Division, Dacca and Mymensing State Railway, Mymensing.

Wanted a teacher on Rs. 40 for Madrassa.—*i* Anwaria. Kelighat- Apply to the Head Master.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

MUNICIPAL.
THE 1st MARCH 1883.
NOTICE.

It is hereby notified for general information that the Lieutenant-Governor proposes, after one month from this date, to confirm the following By-Law, framed by the Commissioners of the Suburban Municipality under Section 256, Act V (B. C.) of 1876.

"No hut or other building, the external roof and walls of which are made of grass, leaves, mats or other inflammable materials shall be erected, renewed or thoroughly repaired within the limits of Municipality except with the sanction of the Commissioners."

Any person infringing this By-Law shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 20, and to a daily fine not exceeding Rs. 5 for continued infringement.

C. MACAULAY,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

HIGH COURT.

RECEIVER'S OFFICE.
Estate Kristomohun Mitter.
Umbica Churn Mitter
vs.
Khetternauth Mitter and others.
NOTICE.

The sale by public auction of the lease of the properties appertaining to the above estate advertised for this day Friday the 6th day of April 1883 has been postponed until Friday the 27th April instant at 1 P.M.

WATKINS & WATKINS,
Attorneys for the Receiver.

A Special General Meeting of the Commissioners for the Town of Calcutta will be held at the town Hall this day the 9th April, 1883, at 3-30 P. M.

Business to be brought forward.

1. To consider the report of the Water-supply Extension Committee recommending a scheme for doubling the Water-supply of the Town and for meeting the possible want of the Suburbs.
2. To confirm the proceedings of the Water-supply Extension Committee at Meetings held on the 28th September, 28th November, 7th December, 1882, 9th February, and 20th March, 1883.
3. To consider letter from the Government of Bengal regarding contribution to Lock Hospital.
4. To confirm the proceedings of the Bustee Committee at Meetings held on the 22nd February, and 1st March 1883.
5. Vital Statistics for the months of November, December, 1882, and January and February, 1883.

C. W. HOPE,
Acting Secretary

NOTICE.

PERSONS exercising any Trade, Profession or Calling within the Town, and all itinerant dealers, hawkers and pedlars are reminded that they should at once apply for Licenses in accordance with the 3rd Schedule of Act IV of 1876, for the official year 1883-84, as all Licenses granted in 1882-83 expired on the 31st of March last.

Notice is hereby given that under Section 67 of Act IV (B. C.) 1876, Licenses for Carriages, Horses, Ponies or Mules, kept within the Town for the half-year commencing from 1st of April 1883, should be taken out at once. Parties failing to take out Licenses will render themselves liable to the penalties of the law.

By order.
NOBO GOPAL MITTER,
License Officer.

Municipal Commissioner's Office,
4, Municipal Office Street.

SCHEDULE.

	Per Half-year. Rs.	A.	P.
For every four-wheeled carriage drawn by two horses	12	0	0
If more than one such carriage, then for every such carriage after the first, two-thirds of the above rate	8	0	0
For every four-wheeled carriage drawn by one horse, or pony or mule, or a pair of ponies or mules under thirteen hands ...	6	0	0
If more than one such carriage, then for every such carriage after the first, two-thirds of the above rate	4	0	0
For every two-wheeled carriage ...	6	0	0
For every horse (*not a race horse*), pony or mule	6	0	0
For every race horse	12	0	0
For every pony or mule under thirteen hands	2	0	0

NOTE.—Animals under eleven hands in height and carriages, the wheels of which do not exceed twenty-four inches in diameter, are exempted.

NOTICE.

Is hereby given that the Registration of Carts, Hackeries, and other Wheeled Vehicle without springs for the first half-year of the official year, 1883-84, will, under Section 83 of Act IV. (B.C.) of 1876, commence from the 1st of April. 1883, and that a fee of Rs. 4 will be required at the time for each registration under Section 85 of Act IV. (B. C.) of 1876.

By order,
NOBO GOPAL MITTER,
Registrar of Carts and Hackeries.

NOTICE.

The *Second Edition* of *The Indian Student's Guide*, by Bholanath Paul, Head-Master, Hare School, consisting of about 650 pages, will be ready by the 1st of May next. Price inclusive of postage, Rs. 4-6. Those however, who should like to pay in advance will be charged at the following rates :—

Town residents ...	Rs. 3	10
Mofussil residents...	... 4	0 post free.

Wanted for the Agra College, an M. A. as a Professor of Mathematics, salary Rs. 250 a month, applicants who do not hear from undersigned within 10 days may conclude that their services will not be required. Apply to the Officiating Principal, Agra College.

ঘনরাম প্রণীত শ্রীধর্ম্ম মঙ্গল।

ঘনরাম প্রণীত শ্রীধর্ম্ম মঙ্গল প্রথম ও দ্বিতীয় খণ্ড প্রকাশিত হইয়াছে। এই রকম বার খণ্ড প্রকাশিত হইলে গ্রন্থ শেষ হইবে, টীকা আছে, সুন্দর সুন্দর ছবি আছে, কাগজ ভাল, ছাপা ভাল। প্রায় ১০০০ পৃষ্ঠায় শেষ হইবে।

শ্রীধর্ম্ম মঙ্গল বঙ্গভাষায় এক অপূর্ব্ব মহাকাব্য, উজ্জ্বলতম রত্ন। প্রায় দুই শত বৎসর পূর্ব্বের এ গ্রন্থ এত দিন কীটদষ্ট পুঁথি আকারে মেঘাচ্ছাদিত সূর্য্যের ন্যায় অগৌরবে বিরাজ করিতেছিল, গৌড়ের রাজা ইহার মূল সূত্র, ময়নাধিপতি লাউসেন ইহার নায়ক, ইহাতে বীররস আছে, করুণ রস আছে, প্রণয় রস আছে, কবিতা সকল সতেজ ও সহজ। ইহা পাঠ করিলে পাঠকগণ বুঝিতে পারিবেন, ইহা বাল্মীকি, মিল্‌টন, হোমর, বার্জ্জিলের সমতুল।

এই কয়েক মাস মধ্যে ঘনরামের আশাতিরিক্ত গ্রাহক হইয়াছে। আমরা কখন ভাবি নাই, জনসাধারণ এরূপ আগ্রহসহকারে এ গ্রন্থ পাঠ করিবেন, বাঙ্গালা দেশে প্রাচীন কাব্যগ্রন্থের দুই মাস মধ্যে দুই হাজার গ্রাহক হওয়া সামান্য কথা নহে, এত অধিক গ্রাহক হইয়াছেন বলিয়াই মূল্য আর ৪৲ চারি টাকা করিতে হইল না। এক্ষণে সমুদয় গ্রন্থের মূল্য ২৷৷০ আড়াই টাকা স্থির হইয়াছে, অগ্রিম মূল্য ভিন্ন কাহাকেও ঘনরাম দেওয়া যায় না। নমুনা দেখিতে চাহিলে এক খণ্ডের মূল্য ।০ চারি আনা পাঠাইলেই হইবে, গ্রাহকগণ আমার নামে মণি-অর্ডর দ্বারা টাকা পাঠাইবেন।

কলিকাতা, (কলেজ ষ্ট্রীট) শ্রীযোগেন্দ্রচন্দ্র বসু
৪১ নং চাঁপাতলা ফার্ষ্ট লেন। ঘনরাম প্রকাশক।

Notice.

The under-mentioned villages in Pergunnah Singhole comprised in Estate Khurruckpore No. 445 of the Bhaugulpur Collectorate Towjee, belonging to Rajah Leelanund Sing Bahadur and sons will be let out in Putni leases. Applications for leases should be presented to the Manager, Raj Bunailee at Bhaugulpur before the end of April next and information regarding the value of the property could be obtained from him.

No.	Names of villages.	Estimated area in local bigah of cultivated land at present excise. Bg.	Cot.	Dh.	Average gross rental of the last ten years. Rs.	As.	P.
1.	Mujhi-ama.....	809	,,	,,	1,842	12	0
2.	Kustea.....	306	,,	,,	916	14	0
3.	Boodhowli.....	202	,,	,,	790	0	0
4.	Kusba Boodhowli	1,436	,,	,,	4,982	4	0

সচিত্র।

প্রবাহিণী।

RENDERED IN BENGALY FROM
MYSTERIES BY REYNOLDS, &C.

রেণাল্‌ড্ কৃত রহস্যাবলী (Mysteries of London and Mysteries of the Court,) অবলম্বনে লিখিত আখ্যায়িকা বলী একাদিক্রমে খণ্ডে খণ্ডে প্রতি পক্ষে প্রকাশিত হইতেছে।

প্রথম উচ্ছ্বাস—প্রথম তরঙ্গ।
এককালীন অগ্রিম মূল্য ৩৵০।
ডাক মাসুল বার আনা।

খরচা প্রতি খণ্ড এক আনা। অর্থাৎ ফর্ম্মা ১০ ও পূর্ণ তরঙ্গ (Series) ৬।০ মাত্র। কিন্তু নির্দ্দিষ্ট গ্রাহক হইলে, ফর্ম্মা ৫; খণ্ড ১০ ও তরঙ্গ ৩৵০ পড়িবে। এরূপ সুলভ মূল্যে কোন বাঙ্গালা পুস্তক এ পর্য্যন্ত বাহির হয় নাই। রয়াল আট পেজী ফর্ম্মার ১৬০০ পৃষ্ঠায়—২০০ ফর্ম্মায়—বা শতাধিক চিত্র সম্বলিত ১০০ খণ্ডে সমাপ্ত। প্রতি তরঙ্গ বা পূর্ণ আখ্যায়িকা বৎসর মধ্যে শেষ হইবে। অন্ততঃ ২৷৵০ পাঠাইলে, নির্দ্দিষ্ট গ্রাহক হইতে পারিবেন। বৈশাখ হইতে তরঙ্গের মূল্য চারি টাকা হইবে।

শ্রীনগেন্দ্রনাথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়।

প্রবাহিণী কার্য্যালয়—৮৯, বারাণসী ঘোষের ষ্ট্রীট, কলিকাতা।

NEW CURE FOR CHOLERA

PROTECTED BY IMPERIAL LETTERS PATENT.

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THE ONLY UNFAILING AND RELIABLE

PREVENTIVE AND SPECIFIC FOR

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INDRADYNE arrests cholera at any stage of its progress, and prevents the dreadful *sequelæ* peculiar to this fatal disease: it has already saved hundreds of valuable lives, and in not a single instance has it been known to fail.

INDRADYNE effectually checks the premonitory symptoms which might otherwise develop into Cholera.

INDRADYNE has powerful prophylactic properties, and prevents infection from Cholera.

☞ **A single trial will prove both the preventive and curative properties of Indradyne. With this specific at hand Cholera need no longer be feared, and this is an important fact in connection with the predicted increase of this disease. Do not therefore delay to lay in a supply.**

Every genuine bottle of Indradyne bears the patentees' initials in red ink, both on the label and wrapper, and to imitate these initials is forgery.

Dated 5th March 1883.

"If my humble recommendation will induce others to try "Indradyne," they may like me be spared a mortal pang. My only son was just sixteen when I thought I had lost him. He got a severe attack of Cholera and two doses of "Indradyne" saved him. After the second dose he slept for eight hours, and on waking was as well as before the attack. I have seen so many die from this dreadful complaint that I consider my son's recovery almost a miracle. I may state that my son was purging and retching for quite six hours before I was induced to give him "Indradyne." I have never met with any antidote more rapid and certain in its effects. God grant that others may also be induced to use it!

Even more convincing testimonials have been received, and some of them give details of almost miraculous cures.

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PRICE PER 12 OUNCE BOTTLE Rs. 3-8,

Packing 8 annas extra.

N.B.—If cash does not accompany orders bottles will be sent by V. P. Post.

Missionaries, charitable institutions and purchasers of more than five bottles, will be supplied on liberal terms, which may be ascertained from Messrs. Evans & Co. but in all such cases cash must accompany orders.

মেডিকেল কালেজের পরীক্ষোত্তীর্ণা ধাত্রী।

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PROPRIETORY MEDICINES.

Have stood the test of time and competition and established a universal reputation for harmlessness and efficacy. They are confidently recommended to all, and especially to residents of places where medical aid is not available.

Prophylactic Mixture—For Periodical Fevers with or without Spleen or Liver Complaints—6 oz. phial, 1 Re.

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Asiatic Cholera Elixir—A reliable remedy if timely administered (very safe and soothing)—1 oz. phial 12 annas.

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FITTED WITH PATENT LOCKS AND DUPLICATE KEYS.

Length.		Breadth.		Depth.		
15	×	10	×	8½	Rs.	47
18	×	12	×	11	„	55
20	×	14	×	12	„	60
22	×	16	×	14	„	65
24	×	18	×	15	„	75
26	×	19	×	17	„	80
28	×	20	×	18	„	85
30	×	21	×	20	„	90
32	×	22	×	21	„	105
34	×	23	×	23	„	115
36	×	24	×	24	„	125

The above Safes are manufactured to our express order, and are admirably adapted for holding large quantities of Silver. Where extra security is required, we fit round them strong iron bands with hasps and staples for Chubb's Patent Detector Padlocks, the charge for which varies according to size of Safe, as under.

	15,	18,	20,	22,	24,	26,	28,	30,	32,	34,	36 inch
Rs.	15				19			23		26	each.

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	15,	18,	20,	22,	24,	26	inch.
Rs.	1,000	2,000	3,000	5,000	7,000	10,000	

	28,	30.	32.	34,	36	inch.
Rs.	12,000	16,000	19,000	24,000	28,000	

If put in loosely or packed they will hold much more.

10 per cent. Discount for Cash.

T. E. THOMSON & CO.,

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PATENT COUGH PILLS!!!

A Purely Vegetable Specific for the cure of Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, Whooping Cough, Coughs of years' standing, Difficulty in Breathing, Tightness of the Chest, Hoarseness, Throwing or Spitting of Blood, Simple and Dry Coughs, Colds, &c. Price per phial, with testimonials and full directions for use and diet, Re. 1; postage and packing, As. 8. The OLDEST and the YOUNGEST can take them with *safety*!! Prepared only by Mrs. Anna. Aratoon Patentee, Calcutta.

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All that part of Chandbally belonging to Captain L. Macneill consisting of Plots no. 1-2 and 12 of Government Plan.

Tenders will be received by Captain Macneill at Chandbally till 10th April 1883.

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Cuttuck, 16th March 1883.

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—By administering DUSARTS'S SYRUP OF LACTOPHOSPHITE OF LIME to wet nurse, whose altered milk had occasioned serious and green diarrhœa to their *nurslings*. we have witnessed the disappearance of that disease, and the complete recovery of the little patients.

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General Director of the Police Department,
Wehedinzi, Roumania.

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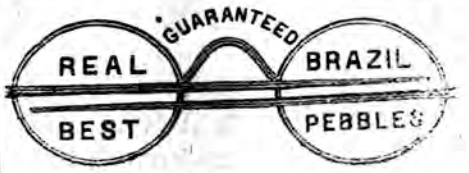

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Silver „ „ „	„	10	0 0
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Cataract Spectacles Crystal.....	„	10	0 0
Testers to be sent on deposit of.....	„	10	0 0

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Rupee one in addition for postage and packing.

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GOVERNMENT CINCHONA FEBRIFUGE.

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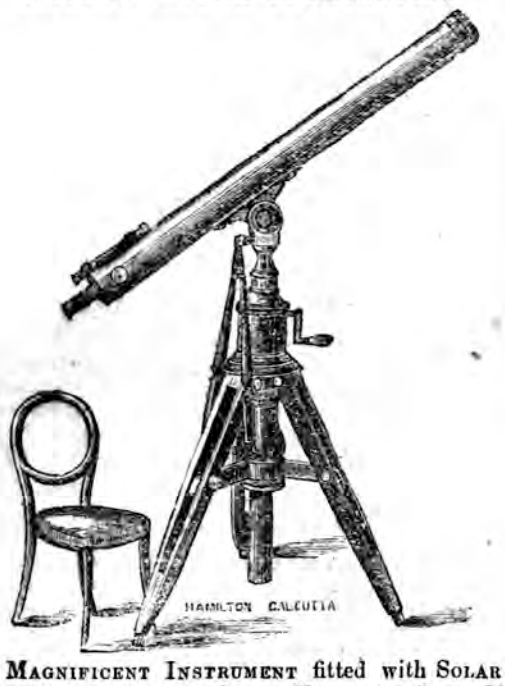

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This is one of the most potent medicines of the Hindu Pharmacopœa, never fails to produce the most satisfactory results in cases of debility from whatever cause arising seminal, constitutional or otherwise. It acts like a charm in typhus or typhoid fevers, chronic diarrhœa, habitual constipation, gleat, spermatorrhœa, female complaints after delivery, weakness of the brain from excessive mental labor, and in all complaints to which the persons of sedentary habits are especially subject.

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Postage 4 Annas.

All the above preparations are perfectly innocuous and may be taken by persons of all sexes and ages with perfect safety.

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Manager.

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Contributions towards the Elucidation of their Ancient and Medœval History.

BY RAJENDRALALA MITRA LL.D., C.I.E.,

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LOCAL.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Thirty-first Annual General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held in the Hall of the Association on Thursday the 5th April 1882, at 4-30 p. m.

AMONG others the following gentlemen were present:

Maharajah Norendro Krishna Bahadur, President, Maharajah Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, K.C.S.I., Rajah Harendra Krishna, Rajah Poorno Chunder Singh, Babu Joykissen Mukerjee, Rai Rajendralala Mitra, L.L.D. C.I.E Bahadur, Nawab Meer Mahomed Ali, Rajah Shama Sunker Roy, Babus Nundolall Gossain, Bijoykissen Mukerjee, Sitanauth Roy, Gonesh Chunder Chunder, Peary Mohun Mookerjee, Kumar Denendronauth Roy, Babu Prosaud Doss Dutt, Kumar Debendra Mullick, Babu Damoodur Doss Burmon, Babu Greesh Chunder Ghose, H. M. Rustomjee, Esq., Babu Baikunthanatha Basu, Kumar Surat Chunder Singh, Babus Hari Mohun Bose, Rajnarain Dutt, Kissory Lal Gossain, Saradendra Nath Tagore, Naffur Chunder Fal Chowdry, Hem Chunder Gossain, Nobin Chunder Boral, Saligram Sing, Benode Behary Mullick, Ramanath Ghose, Mohesh Chunder Chowdry, Lokenath Mullick, Moulvie Syed Abdus Sobhan Chowdhry, and the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal.

The Secretary read the following report of the Committee:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee beg to submit a summary of their operations for the last year (1882).

It will necessarily be to some extent a repetition of the subjects set forth in their report laid before the general meeting held on the 22nd December last.

ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN-EMPRESS ON HER ESCAPE FROM ASSASSINATION.

In the beginning of the year all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in India were shocked at the intelligence of a dastardly and horrible attempt at the life of the Queen-Empress. In order to express their satisfaction and thankfulness at Her Providential escape the Committee placed themselves in communication with the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades' Association for a joint address of sympathy and congratulation to Her Gracious Majesty. A joint meeting was held and a joint representative Committee was appointed, composed of members of all classes of the community to prepare the address and obtain signatures. Pending the preparation of the address at the request of the meeting a message was forwarded by His Excellency the Viceroy to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress (*vide* message in report of meeting of 22nd December 1882). Subsequently the Committee forwarded an address in due course. The address has since been acknowledged by the Secretary of State for India in suitable terms.

LEGISLATION.

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON THE EMIGRATION ACT.—In the Report of 1881 the Committee noticed their representations in connection with Emigration Act. After the Bill was passed His Excellency the Governor-General in Council was pleased to a record a Resolution containing instructions to the Local Governments for the working of the law. These instructions were conceived in a liberal and benevolent spirit. Referring to the three kinds of emigration permitted by the Act, viz., emigration outside the Act, and the coolie working as a free labourer, the emigrant, though outside the Act, still voluntarily coming under it, and the labourer engaged by contractors and garden sirdars, the Resolution proceeds to point out that the only alteration in the Act which will apply to labourers outside the Act is the extension of the limitation of contract. With regard to labourers outside the Act proceeding to a labour district with or without assistance from an employer it says that they may accept a labour contract under sections 111 and 112 of the Act, which can be enforced under sections 170 to 175 The Resolution adverting to this change says that it is an important one and its effect should be clearly watched and the extent to which the planters avail themselves of sections 111 and 112, particularly in the case of newly imported coolies should be duly noticed in the annual report on emigration. With reference to the emigrants of the third class the Resolution lays particular stress upon the clause requiring the reporting officer to explain to the labourer the nature of his contract and leave the detailed working to the local Governments. It further enjoins active supervision on the part of the executive Government of the accommodation provided for labourers and seeing to the rigid enforcement of the safeguards against ill-usage or neglect on the journey, and bringing to notice any attempted abuses, or any defects which may be perceived whether in the arrangements under the law, or in the conduct of the assisted emigrants outside the law. It also enjoins the vigilant working of sirdari recruitment. The Resolution further directs attention to the effect of the change provided in the new law under which garden sirdars may recruit any number of coolies and convey them to a labour district without passing through a contractor's depot. These instructions and injunctions show that His Excellency in Council is fully alive to the magnitude of the change involved in the provision which gives authority to the garden sirdar to engage coolies without limit. Regarding local agents the precautions laid down are,—not to grant special licenses without sanction of the local Government, and such sanction should for a time be withheld until it is seen what kind of emigration is most frequent under the new law. When special licenses are eventually granted there should be a distinct understanding with the local agent to appear with his labourers before the registering officer and require them to execute contracts. It is not expedient that the operations of contractors in the recruiting districts should at once be free from all control; and it is not intended that the system of local agency, which may be paid agency, should be utilized to introduce a new class of contractors to work in the recruiting districts outside the law. These precautions virtually keeps under suspension the law as regards the licensing of local agents. The Resolution indicates solicitude of Government for the welfare of the labourers on other points. As regards arrest without warrant the exercise of this power is enjoined to be carefully watched and particular attention to be paid by Inspectors and district Police officers to the working of sections 172 and 173. The Resolution further provides that the annual reports should contain information as to the total number of arrests made under this part of the law and as to the manner the law regarding arrests has operated and it also directs that all cases of arrests should be reported, although they were never so reported before. These instructions shew that His Excellency is fully impressed with the magnitude of the responsibilities which the law has imposed upon the Government and thus practically vindicates the objections, which this Association had considered it their duty to urge against this measure.

LETTER OF THE ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY.—Not long after the passing of the Emigration Act the Secretary received a communication from Mr. Chesson, Secretary to the Aborigines Protection Society, intimating that the society has directed its attention to this Bill, that a sub-committee had been appointed, that it will address the Secretary of State on the subject and also bring it before Parliament. Sir George Campbell raised the question in the House of Commons, and the Secretary of State remarked that the working of the Act will be carefully watched.

COURT FEES BILL.—The Committee in their representation on this Bill, observed that for substituting stamped papers for adhesive labels for the collection of Court fees of higher value the Governor-General in Council under the exist-ing Act was empowered to introduce the change under an executive order of Government without recourse to fresh legislation. The reason advanced for increasing the fees in suits exceeding Rs. 5,000, was to reduce materially the denominations of stamps required for the collection of fees of which the sliding scale comprises no less than one-hundred and thirty-five denominations of fees of above Rs. 275, which is the fee chargeable in a suit for an amount or value of Rs. 5,000. To meet the requirements of this scale many new denominations of stamped papers would have to be provided, great additional expenses would have to be incurred while the new stamped papers would, comparatively speaking, be seldom used, the number of suits for large amounts being so small a portion of the entire litigation of the country. While there will be thus additional expenditure, the enhancement of fees involved by the change will be in suits for Rs. 7,000 and Rs. 10,000. In former class of suits the increase will be of twenty-five rupees and in the latter of fifty rupees. In the case of suits exceeding Rs. 10,000 the increase will be less in proportion. Besides, the proposed increase will affect, it is calculated, one per cent. of the entire litigation of the country. The increased cost of substituting stamped papers for all values of ten rupees and upwards is calculated to amount to about £8,000, or a increase of rather more than £5,000 over the present cost. For this trifling cost the Committee submitted, it would not be just to burden suitors litigating claims of higher value than Rs. 5,000 with additional law expenses. It was true that suits above Rs. 8,000 formed a small portion of the entire litigation of the country, but the litigants for higher amounts contributed the largest share by way of tax on justice and thus compensated for the smallness of the number of suits. When the Stamp Bill of 1867 was introduced the Hon'ble mover then remarked that the principle on which rates should be paid was not percentage of the value of suits, but the number of Courts which a suit might bring into operation. On that principle, the Committee observed, suitors with claims above Rs. 5,000 pay much more than they ought to do, but they did not advocate any relief from the existing burden. They deprecated, however, any addition to that burden on the plea of enhancement of cost of manufacture, which as they have pointed above will be comparatively small. The Committee further urged that the increase of revenue from the proposed increase in the scale of fees will not be quite one lakh of rupees in Bengal, but the hardship to suitors for claims from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 would be very great and it would not be just to recoup the outlay for multiplication of stamps by taxing a particular class of suitors. They further pointed out that when the judicial receipts were much in excess of expenditure under the head of Law and Justice in Bengal it would not be just to further increase the tax on justice on any class of suitors. The Committee also submitted some observations on the detailed provisions of the Bill, which are not of sufficient importance to require notice in this Report.

TRANSFER OF PROPERTY BILL.—The Committee in commenting on this Bill complained of the shortness of time allowed to the public after its last revision by the Select Committee. As a codification measure it was to be deprecated if it sought to introduce violent changes or innovations. Unfortunately the Bill went much beyond the recognized principles of codification. The Committee expressed their apprehension that the Bill far from introducing certainty and confidence might give rise to new elements of uncertainty, doubt and mistrust, and thus place the ignorant, the simple and the confiding at the mercy of cunning, intriguing and dishonest persons.

Regarding detailed provisions of the Bill the Committee took exception to the section empowering certain local Governments to extend the Act to the whole or any part of their territories and exempt members of any sect, race or class from the operation of certain sections of the Act. For the second chapter of the Bill the Committee expressed their grateful acknowledgment as it had removed a grave objection to the Bill by making its provisions inapplicable as regards any rule of Hindu, Mahomedan or Buddhist law, but at the same time they failed to understand why the Jains and Sikhs not domiciled in the Punjab were still included. The terms of the extension were not comprehensive enough, the saving clause did not specifically exclude Hindus, Mahomedans and Buddhists from the operation of chapter 2. The mere provision that nothing in that chapter will affect any rule of Hindu, Mahomedan or Buddhist law would not exempt those religionists from the technical rules of procedure laid down in that chapter in reference to contracts, but would have the effect of saving them from the operation of those sections which relate to transfers for benefit of unborn persons and rule against perpetuity in those cases only in which the Indian law conflicts with them. The Committee suggested complete exemption. Referring to the illustrations in chapter II they submitted they should be recast to suit the habits and customs of those whom that chapter affected. It was suggested that a person legally disqualified to be a transferree should be defined and particularised. Under the existing law the lessee did not acquire any right that had not been expressly conveyed by the lease, under the proposed law the lessor is to be assumed to have transferred all his rights which he is then capable of passing unless he has expressly specified in the lease the rights which he does not intend to transfer to the lessee. The Committee expressed their opinion that the operation should be confined to sales and gifts. They took exception to the definition of the words, "attached to the earth," which they observed would be in conflict with the Indian ideas of transfer. The provision regarding transfer further ignored the ruling of the High Court that without express stipulation to that effect a lease does not give lessor a right to the minerals imbedded in the soil, and assigns undue favor to the lessee or temporary occupier to the disadvantage and at the sacrifice of the legitimate rights of the lessor, the permanent owner. Regarding right of preemption and the accumulation of profits the Committee took leave to suggest as regards the former that the transferer's right of a retransfer should be saved from the operation of the section providing for the transfer by sale of land and buildings, and as regards the latter they suggested that the time for the accumulation of profits should be extended to at least ten years. Such a rule was particularly necessary as regards small incomes Referring to the eviction of ryots and sale of holdings in execution of decrees the Committee observed that if it was intended that the crops without express mention in the sale proclamation should go with the land provision should be made for payment to the rightful claimant of rent or compensation for the use of the land before

the crop was gathered. The provision for the compulsory registration of all sales, mortgages and exchanges of land of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards, and all gifts of any value whatever and all leases for a term of one year or more, were too far in advance of the condition of the country. Preference might be given to registered documents, but unregistered documents should not be peremptorily declared invalid. They suggested the omission of the rule regarding contracts, as it was opposed to a Full Bench decision of the High Court which held that a contract creating an interest in the land, requires registration and a suit for its specific performance will lie. They further observed that in consideration of the important legal consequence depending upon the passing of ownership of property transferred provision should be made defining accurately the exact time when the ownership passes to the transferee. As regards the provision requiring buyers and sellers of properties to make disclosures of any material defects in the property or of any fact as to the nature and extent of the seller's interest in the property, the Committee deprecated such legislation as it was doubtful whether it would according to the legal doctrine, avert from the buyer the consequences of his act. Besides, it was not expedient to complicate the civil law with questions which were connected with the criminal law. It would be enough to provide that the seller shall answer honestly all relevant questions. The Committee further suggested that transferee should pay all future instalments of charges incurred under the operation of the Land Improvement Act or of a local Drainage Act in consideration of the benefits to be derived by him from the improvement of the property transferred. Referring to the provision for the payment of interest to the vendor for the arrear of purchase money and non-payment of the same in the absence of a stipulation, the Committee suggested that words to that effect should be inserted in the Bill. Instead of a buyer being made bound to disclose to the seller any advantages relating to the property of which the seller was ignorant, some more explicit declaration should be made of the penalty to be incurred by the buyer for improperly declining to accept delivery. The exception in the provision relating to mortgages ought to be as much applicable to recent mortgagees having acquired the share of a mortgagor as to all mortgagors having acquired such a share. The Committee further observed that in the case where a co-mortgagor redeems against a co-mortgagee the rights of such a co-mortgagor had not been adequately provided for. It was desirable that latitude of action should be secured by law to individual co-mortgagors. They further suggested the application of the doctrine of marshalling to the case of a *bona fide* purchaser for value without notice of one or two properties previously mortgaged in the same way as it applied to the case of a mortgagee without notice of such property. Having noticed the provisions regarding deposits of decreed money in Court and the recovery of mortgaged loan by a decree for sale of the mortgaged property instead of a decree for foreclosure the Committee took up the chapter on "Leases" and observed that in the several provisions regarding leases of buildings, garden lands, and agricultural leases something ought to be said to explain to what sort of cases "the share of crops" and "agricultural purposes" referred to in the chapter will apply and that in the event of the provisions being applicable to agricultural leases. Regarding transfer of lease and obligations of the lessee and all cognate incidents relating to the rights and previleges of the lessor and lessee, the Committee strongly objected to the bestowal of absolute power to transfer a lease without express authority from the lessor to guard against malicious and injurious transfers. They recommended that sufficient provision should be made to compel the lessee to take good care that the boundaries of the leased property be not encroached upon by a neighbour. When subletting was permitted provision should be made for the registration of subleases in the sherista of the superior landlord. In the event of transfer of leased property the notice of suit for transfer ought to exempt the lessor from all liabilities with reference to the lease. When property of small value was tranferred by gift the Committee failed to see any reason why a purchaser for fair value of an actionable claim should not be allowed to recover all that was recoverable from the party liable instead of having his remedy limited to recovering merely the interest thereon. The restriction was put on, they observed, in respect of speculative purchasers and dealers in litigation, but it would be hard if it were made applicable both to the purchaser of actionable claim and the vendor of the same. In conclusion the Committee remarked that many of the provisions of this Bill were new and would not be intelligible to the bulk of the native population and will act harshly and cause much vexation, trouble and loss. Some alterations were made in the Bill before it was passed into law.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.—The Committee while acknowledging the several material improvements introduced in the Bill by the Select Committee, submitted some remarks and suggestions for making the Bill more perfect. They deprecated the continuance of the barbarous punishment of whipping. With reference to the system of summary trial they observed that the experience of the last ten years has strengthened the objections they had urged to the summary system. It has proved a prolific source of hardship, injustice and oppression and consequent dissatisfaction among the people, while it has drawn severe condemnation from the Hon'ble and learned Judges of the High Court. Regarding the provisions relating to trial by jury, the Committee observed that as the extension of the system of Jury trial was dependent upon the discretion of the local Governments it was to be presumed that the system would be extended to the advanced districts, and when so extended it would be meet that an unanimous verdict of the Jury or one arrived at by the majority should prevail. Referring to the provision authorising the Courts to take memorandum of evidence in English as the examination proceeds, the Committee for reasons given suggested that the evidence of witnesses should be recorded in the language in which it is given, leaving it to the Courts to make a memo in English for its own guidance. The Committee next took exception to the sections providing appeals against acquittals and for the Appellate Courts to enhance sentences on appeal, remarking that the executive in no civilized country on the face of the globe is vested by law with the privilege of preferring appeals against acquittals. The Court of first instance which tries the accused having the best opportunity of testing his guilt or innocence by watching his demeanour and that of the witnesses and weighing all surrounding circumstances is in a fair position of arriving at a sound conclusion, and if it acquits a prisoner it would not be consistent with the sound principles of jurisprudence to concede to Government the right of appeal against such an acquittal. They further observed that this privilege of an appeal from an acquittal naturally implies a want of confidence in the judiciary, and it would be an anomaly to give them at the same time the power of summary trial. With regard to the power to the High Courts to enhance sentences in the cases which might be called up by order of those Courts or which might be sent up to them by a Session's Judge or District Magistrate, the Committee recommended that this power might likewise be withdrawn as provided for in regard to powers of Appellate Courts. Referring to the Habeas Corpus sections of the Bill made applicable to European British subjects the Committee urged that they ought to be made equally applicable to the case of a native Indian subject of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. This express provision was the more necessary as under the law now provided, if a Magistrate be the offending party no proceedings could be taken against him without the sanction of Government, and that sanction might be withheld at the pleasure of the executive on the plea that the act complained of was done *bona fide* in the discharge of public duties. The Committee lastly solicited attention to the old question of the extension of the jurisdiction of Mofussil Criminal Courts to European British subjects. The reasons urged in support of this recommendation were that, since the question was first raised in Parliament in 1833 many charges and improvement have taken place in the country, that the objections which were valid then could not be valid now ; that under the direct rule of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress all the Courts of the country were Queen's Courts ; that the High Courts which have been formed by the amalgamation of the Queen's and the Company's highest Courts are presided over by barrister and civilian Judges, and that no distinction is made in the constitution of the Benches for the Calcutta Criminal Sessions, at which both Europeans and natives are tried ; in the Calcutta and all Presidency Police Courts Magistrates both European and Native try Europeans and Natives alike. The privilege now enjoyed by the European British subjects virtually amounts to denial of justice to an aggrieved native, who is seldom able to bear the expense, and trouble of bringing an European offender to the High Court for trial. The present efficient condition of the Mofussil Courts which are more or less filled with trained lawyers removes objection which formerly could be urged on the ground of competency and fitness. His Excellency the Viceroy intimated in Council that he would consider the question next session and consult the Local Governments about it. His Excellency has redeemed his promise and caused a Bill to be introduced on the subject.

EMBANKMENT BILL.—On the publication of the amended Bill the Committee took occasion to comment on the amendments introduced in it by the Select Committee and suggested such alterations as were called for by experience, due regard being had to the interests of the parties concerned and considerations of justice. They took exception to the definition of embankments, under which coupled with the subsequent provision, they observed, the position of owner of land bordering on private embankments taken charge of by Government will be worse than it is under the existing law. Government embankments and embankments taken charge of by Government officers were included in one definition of "Public Embankment," which was defined to be embankment maintained by Government. In order to protect the rights of private owners they suggested the addition of the words "at the cost of Government" at the end of the definition. Referring to the provision regarding lands belonging to public embankment whether maintained at the expense of Government or taken charge of by Government officers, the Committee referred to the correspondence of September 1881 and suggested that the question of title to side ditches from which earth is taken should be settled as then decided by Government, namely, by the criterion of actual use and possession. This decision referred to public embankments maintained by Government, the right of private landholders to lands of private embankments taken charge of by Government officers remains unaffected. The Committee therefore recommended that the provisions under comment might be so amended as to provide for supply of earth without trenching upon the private rights of the landholder. Passing over minor provisions regarding the power given to Government to make a sluice in public embankments, to take charge of a private embankment or to remove any private embankment, the Committee noticed the section providing for the entertainment of claims for lands or for compensation for any rights affected by the action of the embankment authorities and remarked that the limit of time for the entertainment of such claims should be three instead of two years. Referring to the discontinuance of any embankment, water-course or tow-path and exclusion from the schedule D. referred to the Committee observed that the introduction of the word "water-course" would complicate matters by raising the question as to which water-course should be included and which not. Referring to the proviso in the section providing for the recovery of the estimated amount from zemindars on account of repairs and maintenance of embankments, water-courses and works connected therewith, three months after the publication of such estimate in the *Calcutta Gazette*, the Committee suggested that a similar limit of time should be fixed within which a general notice calling upon all persons in the district to prefer their objections to the Collector should be issued. The Committee took exception to the provision for the recovery of costs of any embankment from any estate by making it a first charge upon that estate not to be voided by any sale, observing that the only sale which gives a Parliamentary title to the purchaser is the sale for arrears of revenue, and the provision in question will take away the security of such sales. They therefore suggested that if this section be at all retained a proviso should be added to the section to the effect, "provided the amount of such charge be advertised in the proclamation of sale." To clear up the section which gives power to the zemindar and tenure-holder to recover any instalments of the costs of any embankments due to them, the Committee recommended the restoration of the wording of section 51, of Act VI. of 1873. Referring to the provisions for the infliction of fine and imprisonment upon any person for erecting unauthorised embankments or diverting obstinately a water-course, and for acting in contravention of this law the Committee recommended that no penalty should be inflicted for the first mentioned offences unless they are committed after service of notice, and for the last, as proceedings under the provisions of this law will not come under the Criminal Procedure Code, an appeal should be allowed from sentences under these sections. The Bill has been passed into law with some immaterial alterations.

BENGAL EXCISE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.—In their remarks on the Excise Act Amendment Bill the Committee confined themselves to three points, viz., making unfermented date and palm juice exciseable articles ; reducing the minimum quantity of country liquor for retail sale from twelve to one quart bottle, while retaining twelve quarts as the minimum retailable quantity for imported liquor ; and subjecting stills to license. On the first point the Committee submitted that the fresh date or palm juice is a cooling beverage much liked by the rural population, and has no intoxicating effect. Taken from the tree the palm juice does not generally ferment till two hours and the date juice till twelve hours, and until vinous fermentation commences neither is intoxicating unless special means be adopted to produce fermentation earlier. They therefore strongly deprecated the imposition of any tax upon date or palm juice for excise purposes unless it be in anticipation of possible future fermentation, in which case all saccharine and amylacious articles should likewise be taxed. They referred to the abuses and hardships caused by the levy of excuse duty on fresh date juice, and in proof of which they referred to the representations made to

Government from East Bengal and to the last Excise Administration Report of the Board of Revenue. Referring to the principle which led His Excellency the Viceroy to vetoe the Bombay Excise Bill the Committee remarked that the same principle applies to the Bengal Bill which seeks to tax date and palm juice which are used as food in the Bengal Provinces. With regard to the second point of objection the Committee observed that they have not heard that the present specified quantities of liquor for retail sale have led to any abuse and therefore call for revision. If the minimum quantity of liquor ought to be reduced for any reasons which are not apparent to the public the reduction ought to be general, and not partial. It seems anomalous and invidious that the retail sale of imported liquor should remain at the fixed quantity of twelve quart bottles and that of country liquor should be lowered from twelve quart bottles to one quart bottle. The effect will be that the people will be drawn to consume more imported liquor than country liquor, and knowing how deleterious is the stuff sold as imported liquor in Calcutta and the district towns compared with the country liquor the Committee were of opinion it would be highly injurious to encourage the use of that stuff. Besides such a distinction would be a departure from the acknowledged free trade principles of Government, for it would directly encourage the consumption of imported liquor to the prejudice of that of country liquor, and thus foster protectionism. On the third ground of objection the Committee submitted that without a specific definition of the kind of still contemplated by the Bill the possession of every instrument used in distillation may be brought under the purview of the penal section of the law. Stills are used for many purposes of art, for the preparation of attar, rose-water and licora water, and for the preparation of medicines, acids and ethers, and the obtaining of licenses for the keeping of stills for such legitimate purposes, cannot but be very expensive and troublesome. On the other hand, the Committee urged that country arrak may be and is usually distilled with the aid of two earthen pots and a bit of bamboo, the possession of which separately cannot be construed into a possession of a still, and when they are put together and being used as a still a charge of illicit distillition may be maintained as easily as being in possession of a still. While the object aimed at namely, preventing illicit distillation, cannot be attained, the restriction will prove a vexatious and gratuitous interference with legitimate trade. The Committee therefore prayed for the omission of the section.

THE RENT BILL.—The Committee again applied to the Government of India for a copy of the Bengal Rent Bill with copies of all minutes and despatches connected therewith. The Secretary to the Government of India in the department of Revenue and Agriculture to informed the Committee that as the Bill was still under discussion with the Secretary of State the request could not be immediatel complied with. With reference to the proposal made at the last general meeting for he appointment of a Central Committee of Landholders in Bengal and Behar to watch the progress of the Bengal Rent Bill the Committee are glad to state that the gentlemen named at the last meeting to form the Committee have unanimously responded to the call. Several European gentlemen interested in land have joined the Committee.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

The Committee took occasion to offer some remarks and suggestions on the scheme of Local Self-Government on the publication of the Government of India Resolution and the circular of the Government of Bengal on the subject. Expressing their gratitude to the Government of India for proposing to extend to the people of this country the privilege of local self-Government they proceeded to consider the several features of the scheme. Referring to the proposed transfer to local control of provincial expenditure under the heads of medical charity, education, and public works, the Committee observed that the most important concession which the Government of India proposed was the remission of Police contribution from municipal funds, which now made the heaviest drain upon those funds. But while the Police contribution was remitted it was proposed to throw upon the municipalities an equal burden of expenditure for education, medical charity, and if possible, public works of local interest. If this expenditure be thrown upon the municipalities, their financial position, especially that of the second class would not be materially improved. Many of them after providing for Police and establishment charges had scarcely Rs. 250 a month left to meet their primary requirements, What was wanted for them was such a relief as would enable them to fulfil their legitimate obligations. The Committee therefore ventured to express a hope that in the arrangements that may be made in the administration of municipal funds sufficient latitude ought to be allowed to Municipal Committees for the exercise of discretion in the selection of particular works for immediate attention, due relief being given to existing funds for the fulfilment of the legitimate obligations of municipalities. As regards the funds to be assigned to the District Board besides giving them certain receipts and imposing upon them corresponding equivalent obligations, there ought to be a distinct understanding as to what works of district improvement should be considered local, and what works should be considered provincial. This was necessary to guard against the distinction between general and local finance being lost sight of, in their application to the practical administration of funds. The object of the distinction was to secure an increased efficiency in the administration through an organisation calculated to take a more direct interest in local affairs than was possible under a centralized bureau. To prevent an increase of taxation upon the people it was necessary to check the absorbtion of the funds of a subordinate agency by the superior agency. Regarding the constitution of municipal bodies, the Committee after giving a brief history of municipal institutions in this country from their first inception, the system of municipal taxation in force and the incidence of municipal taxation, went on to observe that the municipal system as at present worked had not proved popular in many parts of the Mofussil. This was chiefly owing to the poverty of the people, who were ill able to bear the burdens which municipal administration conducted upon the model of the most advanced nations on the face of the globe imposed upon them. The Committee then urged that whether the municipalities were to be maintained in large towns or in small places, they ought to be constituted on a broad basis. They suggested that three-fourths of the members of a Municipality should be elected by the rate-payers, paying a certain amount of rates per annum, and the remaining fourth nominated by Government, their tenure of office ought not to be less than five years, that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary should be elected by the Municipal Commissioners; that the discretion of the Municipal Commissioners should not be fettered in the discharge of their duties, but that the Government should be armed with the power in cases of default, to require the Municipal Commissioners to carry out certain necessary works of conservancy and sanitation. To give effect to the scheme it will be necessary to amend the Municipal Act.

With regard to District Boards the Committee suggested that three-fourths of the members of the district board should be elected and one-fourth nominated. The qualification of electors should of course be based upon the payment of a certain amount of cesses per annum. The subdivisional Committee instead of being a sub-committee of the Central Board should be duly elected and nominated as a distinct body and two members of each sub-divisional Committee should be returnable to the District Board. The Committee strongly deprecated the proposal of making the executive head of the district the head of the District Board. The Committee recommended that either they should elect their own chairman or that the Government should nominate an officer who is not charged with executive work in the district, in the latter case the Board should have the liberty to elect their own Vice-Chairman and Secretary. The Committee further recommended that in order to secure good attendance at the meetings of the Board and Sub-Committees travelling allowance should be given to members not residing within the town where the office of the Board might be situate. Regarding the funds to be placed at the disposal of the Boards and the powers with which they should be invested the Committee added that the licensing of of liquor shops but not the excise revenue and the extension of compulsory vaccination should be vested in the District Board and Municipal Committees. The Committee also expressed a hope that the Local Boards will be put in sufficient funds for the fulfilment of their obligations.

The Government has since introduced two Bills for the improvement of municipalities and the constitution of local Boards, which now engage the attention of the Committee.

PUBLICITY OF LEGISLATIVE MEASURES.

The Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Judicial Department in forwarding a copy of the Government of India's letter from the Legislative Department, requested an expression of opinion from the Association on the question of giving greater publicity to legislative measures. The Committee in their reply thanked His Excellency the Viceroy for directing his attention to the important question referred to. While fully subscribing to the opinion of the Government of India on the desirableness of enlisting the co-operation of the Press they took leave to suggest that it should be put in possession of important facts and papers in order to enable them fully to understand the state of affairs in the present, judge for the future, and fully express their views as well as their feelings regarding the subjects under discussion. While expressing thir acquiescence in the measures proposed to be taken by Government to promote a healthy discussion of legislative measures they humbly suggested by way of supplement that the papers connected with any Bill should also be presented to public Libraries and Reading-Rooms which are frequented by intelligent and educated men. They further observed that it will not be sufficient to cause a publication of a full statement of the reasons and objects of a measure. They remarked that the papers which lead up to a measure not unfrequently throw the greatest light upon it, and suggested that copies of such papers should be made available to the public at a low price. They added that in this connection all newspapers both English, Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular should be supplied with copies of the *Gazette of India* and the local Gazettes. With regard to Vernacular translations of Bills and Acts the Committee observed that so far as Bengal is concerned they do not proceed with the necessary rapidity and in order to secure quickness in their appearance they recommended that the establishment of the translation department should be increased. They further expressed their appreciation of the proposal to have the Urdu version of the Bills transliterated into the Hindi. In addition to the methods fixed upon to give publicity to the legislative measures the Committee expressed their opinion that an abstract of the opinions received and of the more important ones *in extenso* should be published in the *Gazette* for general information and also given to the public. By far the most important points connected with the question of publicity of legislative measures, the Committee submitted, were those of the procedure of the Legislative Council. The Government of India is rightly informed that exception has been taken to present procedure of the Council under which sufficient time for forming opinions is not allowed, especially to those who are dependent on translations, which cannot be brought out for some time after the publication of a Bill. It has accordingly been suggested that a rule of business should be formed which would preclude Select Committees from reporting on a Bill until a specified period has elapsed from the date of its publication in the vernacular language. As to the objection on the ground of unworkability of such a rule the Committee urged that at present the hardship to the public was very great. The Committee shewed that the law of publicity had been set at defiance in some cases which they cited. They maintained that Bills passed in hot haste often required to be amended not long after their passing and constant changes in the law were annoying and harassing to the public. It will not be enough, they ventured to think to give wide publicity to legislative measures; sufficient time ought to be allowed to the public both to form and to express their opinions on all matters of importance. It was necessary therefore to give both translations of Bills as well as of all amendments of a substantial character at every stage of such Bills in order to give the public fair and full opportunity to discuss them. The Committee, referring to the practice of submitting all Bills to the Secretary of State for approval, observed that when such Bills are introduced into the Council and passed into law any appeals which might be made by the public who are dissatisfied with the measure would be practically useless. To avoid such future disappointment the Committee suggested that all Bills which may be submitted to the Secretary of State should be previously published in India for the expression of public opinion and when they may be forwarded to the Home Government they should be accompanied with a summary of the opinions of the Press and of the public representations if any connected with the same. Such a course, the Committee urged, would be consistent with the enlightened policy which the Government of India contemplates in the letter under notice.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

The Committee in their reply to the reference from Government on the question of abolishing imprisonment for debt, remarked that the letter of the Government of India raised two questions, (1) the arrest of *purdanushin* women in execution of decrees of Civil Courts and (2) abolition of imprisonment for debt. With regard to the first question the Committee observed that they had shewn in a previous communication on the subject how far the present law was inadequate to protect *purdanushin* women from incarceration in Jail in execution of Civil Court decrees and what changes in it were necessary to give them the desired protection. On the question of imprisonment for debt, they observed, that they were convinced this country was not ripe for it. One of the recognized facilities for the realization of debt in this country was body warrant and the

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fear of being put into jail had a very wholesome effect upon many a debtor in paying off his honest debts. Many debtors who having property contrive to elude the grasp of the law by *benami* arrangements, and the only process which may have effect upon such men, though not upon all of them, was imprisonment, and if this salutary check upon dishonest repudiation of debt were withdrawn the interests of society in this country would be seriously jeopardised. Indians of all classes, unless hoplessly depraved, have an instinctive dread of the jail, addedto which there is the strong family feeling which is widely shaken the moment a member of a family is thrown into jail. In many cases payment is made immediately upon arrest which would not have been done if the process were not enforced. The process is had recourse to as a last resource, and a creditor if he can recover his money by attachment of goods or chattels or other property, does not as a rule take the extreme step of proceeding against the person of the debtor. To honest but unfortunate debtors the provisions of the Procedure Code afford every facility for relief in the Insolvent Court. About five years ago considerable alterations were made in the first Procedure Code for the benefit of debtors and a further change was contemplated by exempting salaries not amounting to Rs. 15 per mensem from attachment; the Committee thought it proper to suggest that the effect of the changes alluded to should be carefully watched before such a violent change as the abolition of imprisonment for debt was introduced in this country.

THE POLICE CHARGES OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CALCUTTA, THE SUBURBS AND HOWRAH.

The Committee drew the attention of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to the exclusion of Calcutta, the Suburbs and Howrah from the benefit of the measure contemplated in the Government Resolution of 14th July last. They referred to the Resolution of the Government of India of 11th October 1881 on the subject of the extension of Local self-Government in which considerable stress was laid on the incongruity of charging municipalities with the maintenance of the Police in the management of which they had no voice. In the circular of the Government of India propounding the principles of relieving municipal towns of Police charges, nothing was said to imply that Calcutta, the Suburbs and Howrah shall not participate in the benefit of the measure. On the contrary Calcutta was specially named for inclusion. But the Government of Bengal in its Resolution of 20th February 1882 on the subject of municipal Police charges excluded Calcutta, the Suburbs and Howrah from the exemption conceded to other municipalities. The reasons assigned for this exclusion were the limited funds at the disposal of the local Government, the less pressing needs of the three municipalities, and their large resources. The Committee submitted that the condition of the three municipalities of Calcutta, the Suburbs and Howrah might be different from that of the municipalities in the interior, but they were not prepared to admit that their needs were less pressing. The situation of Calcutta was exceptional and its acquirements were therefore exceptional. The Calcutta Municipality has done much for its sanitary improvement, it is true, but still much more remained to be done. The Suburbs and Howrah had some very urgent wants to meet, which could not be taken in hand from want of funds, such as drainage, water-supply, construction of roads and reclamation of bustees. The cost of works in these municipalities was much greater than in the interior, and if their resources were comparatively greater, the requirements were also much greater. If other municipalities have been relieved of Police charges on the ground of the anomaly that while they paid for the maintenance of the Police they had no voice in its management, the same anomaly existed in Calcutta, the Suburbs and Howrah, and the Committee saw no good or valid reason why they should not partake of a benefit conceded to every other municipality. If the objection rested on the ground that the amount of their respective police charges was heavy and could not be thrown upon the Provincial revenues, the Committee submitted that that was a financial question which ought to be settled between the Supreme and the Local Governments. The general public are interested in the proper enforcement of the general principle laid down by the Government of India, and as Calcutta was not excepted from the application of the principle but especially mentioned in that connection, it cannot be fair and reasonable to make an exception now. The Committee further ventured to submit that if want of funds be the real difficulty in giving effect to the Resolution of the Government of India as regards Calcutta, the Suburbs and Howrah, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to ask the Supreme Government to put him in funds for the purpose. They accordingly solicited that His Honor will be pleased to move the Government of India to place at his disposal sufficient funds to enable him to exempt Calcutta, the Suburbs and Howrah from the payment of their respective Police charges.

COMMERCE AND REVENUE.

THE OPIUM MONOPOLY.—The Committee having been informed of the intention of a motion being made in Parliament, of which due notice had been previously given, for the suppression of the opium monopoly, addressed a letter to the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce, requesting them to forward a telegram at the cost of the British Indian Association to Her Majesty's Secretary of State by way of expression of native opinion on the subject. The Government sent intimation that the telegram had been duly transmitted to the Secretary of State.

SALT-MANUFACTURE IN BENGAL.—Encouraged by the spirit in which the Government of India shewed its eagerness to stimulate indigenous industry, the Committee ventured to lay before His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal certain suggestions for the removal of the impediments which stood in the way of Salt-Manufacture in Bengal. They remarked at the outset that an invidious distinction existed between Orissa and Midnapore on one side and the rest of Bengal on the other. The rule in respect of Orissa and Midnapore was that if the revenue was not less than twenty times the cost of preventive and excise establishments, such cost shall be borne by the State, the Committee contended that the same rule ought to be made applicable to the rest of Bengal. The next impediment, to which the Committee referred was the miscellaneous cost of home-made salt in the shape of establishment, ware-house transport charges, excise establishment, preventive establishment and ware-house establishment which amounted to Rs. 25 per 100 maunds and from which foreign salt was free; besides the cost of manufacture of excise salt ranged from Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 per 100 maunds. The third impediment to the manufacture of indigenous salt which the Committee mentioned, was the fixed ware-house establishment of Rs. 51 per month. This cost, the Committee added, bore hard upon the manufacturer in the 24-Pergunnahs, which was the only salt manufacturing district in Bengal next to Midnapore, where the out-turn was small and the sales slow. Furthermore, whereas the country manufacturer was saddled with the cost of ware-house establishment from month to month until the whole stock is cleared, the importer of foreign salt has to meet only the fee of Rs. 5 per diem for a Custom House officer and annas eight for a Mohurrir only during the days deliveries are made from the Bonded-Warehouse. These rules, the Committee observed, operated seriously to the disadvantage of the country manufacturer and gave an undue protection to the foreign product and tended to increase the price of salt. Such a result, the Committee added, being opposed to the declared free-trade policy of the Government of India and the encouragement of indigenous industry, they ventured to state that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal will be pleased to remove the drawbacks by placing the rest of Bengal on the same footing with Midnapore and Orissa as regards the preventive and excise establishments and extending to country manufacture the rules for clearance applicable to imported salt.

THE CITY AND PORT OF CALCUTTA.

CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION IN CALCUTTA.—On the perusal of the report submitted by theCommittee of business men and representatives of public bodies on the question of a Central Railway station in Calcutta, the Committee of the British Indian Association forwarded a representation to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department setting forth the disadvantages of the scheme which preponderated over its advantages. The recommendations of the above mentioned Committee comprised the following heads. (1) The construction of a Central Railway Station on the east side of Bentinck Street, on the site between Meridith's Lane and Emambarah Lane, (2) the construction of a goods station between Sealdah Gas Works and Manicktollah Street; (3) the widening of Bentinck Street throughout, and of the Chitpore Road between Lal Bazar and Canning Street to a uniform breadth of 100 feet, the widening of Waterloo Street and the eastern end of Mango Lane to a uniform breadth of 80 feet. The Committee admitted that the widening of Streets would be a decided improvement, especially Chitpore Road, the traffic on which was more than sixteen times greater than that on Bentinck street but this question ought to be considered apart from the question of a Central Railway station. Having regard to the vital importance of the subject, the Committee remarked, they were not satisfied as to the necessity of a Central passenger station in the heart of Calcutta. Because it had been decided to build a railway bridge over the Hooghly at Chinsurah it did not necessarily follow that it was necessary to establish a central terminus for the East Indian Railway in Calcutta. Sealdah, the Committee submitted was centrical enough for the different lines of Railway to meet. The question naturally occurred for whose benefit was the Central Railway Station intended? To the distant traveller, the visitor from Bombay Madras, Lahore, Delhi and Allahabad it would make no difference whether he should terminate his journey at Sealdah or at Bentinck Street. To the European residents who may occasionally travel by rail, five or ten minutes' drive from Sealdah would make no appreciable difference, not to say that they could not avoid the drive altogether, for wherever the station might be located, no railway could drop each traveller at his door. To the short distance passengers who daily visited Calcutta on business, the tramway obviated any inconvenience which they might feel. If the Central Passengers Station be intended for the third and fourth class passengers, who were too poor to travel by tram-cars, and hackneys, Sealdah was more centrical to them than Bentinck Street as it was nearer to the native town. If a separate metropolitan station be expected to draw a good portion of the well-to-do population of the Capital to the suburbs, the habits, temper and feelings of the natives of this country held out no hopes of fulfilment of that expectation, On the other hand the connection of six different railway lines in the heart of the town and the running on an average of sixty trains daily would be a source of many disadvantages and much inconvenience. The smoke dust and noise will be a great nuisance. The Committee of business men unlike the Committee of engineers did not recommend the establishment of a Central goods station except for local goods traffic. If there was no necessity for a Central goods station, surely there was much less necessity for a Central Passengers Station in Calcutta. The Committee of the British Indian Association expressed their opinion that the local goods and passenger station ought to be in proximity to each other. The last objection of the Committee to the establishment of a Central Railway station was expense, which according to the present estimate would cost three quarters of a million, but the actual cost might exceed a million, For these and other reasons the Committee urged it would not be expedient or wise to incur such a heavy outlay.

(*Continued in page* 177.)

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